United Nations A/73/81-E/2018/59

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
26 April 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Item 21 of the preliminary list*
Sustainable development

Economic and Social Council
2018 session
Agenda item 11
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations system has further intensified its effort to mainstream the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development throughout its work. In a survey conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 36 United Nations system entities provided updates on their efforts to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, which capture also their efforts to mainstream the three dimensions of sustainable development. The information thus generated demonstrates the response of the United Nations system to the vision and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.

The present report contains an overview of those actions and initiatives implemented by United Nations system entities, as reflected in the survey. Of note is a continuing effort by system entities to align their new strategic programmes of work with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, under the guidance of their respective intergovernmental bodies. A number of the entities also initiated organizational innovations in order to be better positioned to respond to the transformative nature of the Goals, by setting up dedicated coordination units. A new institutional mindset is gradually taking shape, with a growing emphasis on moving away from silos to interlinkages, to working in partnership and to seeking synergies across the Organization's workplan. Support to Member States is likewise geared towards an integrated approach, focusing on linkages and nexuses among the Goals, and there is a clear willingness to enhance collaboration within the United Nations system and with business and civil society stakeholders. The aim is to build on comparative advantages and focus on adding value to efforts at the country level towards achieving the Goals.

* A/73/50.

18-06718 (E) 040518

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In General Assembly resolution 72/216, Member States took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/72/75–E/2017/56) and reiterated the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system. In this regard, it invited the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

2. In response to that request, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs invited United Nations system entities, including the secretariats of United Nations conventions and research institutions, to participate in a survey regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The information gathered as part of the survey serves as an essential input to the present report. The findings of the survey will also be used to analyse United Nations system response to the implementation requirements for the 2030 Agenda and the Goals.

3. The present report contains an overview of the actions and initiatives implemented by United Nations system entities, as reflected in the survey. Of note is a continuing effort by system entities to align their new strategic programmes of work with the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, under the guidance of their respective intergovernmental bodies. A number of the entities also initiated organizational innovations in order to be better positioned to respond to the transformative nature of the Goals, by setting up dedicated coordination units. A new institutional mindset is also gradually taking shape, with a growing emphasis on moving away from silos to interlinkages, to working in partnership and to seeking synergies across the Organization's workplan. United Nations system support to Member States is likewise geared towards an integrated approach, focusing on linkages and nexuses among the Goals; and there is a clear willingness to enhance collaboration within the system and with business and civil society stakeholders. The aim is to build on comparative advantages and focus on adding value to efforts at the country level towards achieving the Goals.

4. The present overview, by its nature, does not do full justice to the wealth of information contained in the findings of the survey. In order to ensure that such a repertoire of information adds value to the analysis and coordination of United Nations system action on the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has consolidated the survey findings into a user-friendly, searchable online database, to be regularly updated by responding entities, which is available on the following webpage: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/unsystem/index.html.

II. Integrated strategy for implementation

5. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the various governing bodies of United Nations system entities have taken forward-looking strategic decisions to guide concrete action aimed at expediting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. For example, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has mainstreamed the 2030 Agenda and the follow-up in the work of its governing bodies, particularly in the context of the biennial session of the Commission, in which the Commission's programme of work is presented and submitted to its member States. As an example, at the thirty-

sixth session of the Commission, held in 2016, the 2030 Agenda was at the heart of both the programme and the discussions during the meeting. Moreover, the position document presented to governments on that occasion, entitled *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*,[1] explicitly intertwined the Commission's analysis and policy recommendations with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. In the case of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, a strategy and plan of action regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved by the Executive Committee of the Commission in December 2015. The Strategy is a multifaceted approach to supporting member States through adaptation, priority-setting, policymaking and with the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda. The response is at once conceptual and organizational: it refines the functions and the structure of the organization to allow for optimal responsiveness to the needs of member States within the context of the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the strategy started in January 2016, with the establishment of a unit dedicated to work concerning the 2030 Agenda, the main mandate of which is to coordinate and complement the ongoing work of all divisions of the Commission in order to ensure a coherent response by the Commission to member States' needs, an enhanced ability to lead regional-level processes, foster intraregional dialogue, advocate a common regional prioritization of work within the new global agenda, produce knowledge on thematic issues of the 2030 Agenda that are relevant to the region and fulfil the Commission's follow-up and review mandates in that respect.

7. In order to advance its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its seventy-second session, adopted resolution 72/6 on committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to (a) promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development; (b) support the process to define a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda and to address challenges to its achievement in Asia and the Pacific, pursuant to the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development; and (c) strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda through an integrated approach, inter alia, with the provision of analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and by enhancing data and statistical capacities.

8. In addition, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested its Executive Secretary to continue to provide capacity-building opportunities to member States, by leveraging existing expertise and its intergovernmental forum to contribute to the strengthening of their capacity. Such support covers issues relating to financing for development, including domestic resource mobilization, as well as developing integrated approaches, models and tools in enhancing regional cooperation on achieving the Goals with a special emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

9. The technical and governing bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have played a key role in providing guidance and identifying priorities for FAO contributions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The relevant decisions of the Conference, the Organization's main decision-making body, were informed by the work of technical and thematic

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.II.G.11.

bodies (fisheries, forestry, agriculture, trade and commodities), as well as that of the Committee on World Food Security, the regional conferences of FAO, and other intergovernmental platforms of FAO or hosted by the Organization, such as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Those bodies all discussed the policy, programmatic and financial priorities of FAO work on the Goals, under specific agenda items during their sessions held in 2016 and 2017. Technical and regional bodies, as well as the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, also discussed ways to fully integrate the Goals into the programme of work and the results framework of FAO.

10. International Labour Organization (ILO) action on the 2030 Agenda and the Goals is based on platforms that were discussed and adopted by ILO tripartite constituents (governments, workers and employers) through its governing organs. Those platforms include the report of the Director General to the International Labour Conference at its 105th session, entitled "The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda", and the resolution on advancing social justice through decent work, adopted by the Conference at that session. The resolution requests ILO to play a convening role around the United Nations system follow-up to and review of the decent work dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The Organization's implementation plan for the Goals sets out Organization-wide activities and coordination requirements. As requested by the Governing Body, the Office of the Director General subsequently prepared a roll-out strategy for operationalizing the implementation plan. The Strategy proposes six action categories: (a) capacity-building; (b) guidance development; (c) outreach; (d) research and policy; (e) communication; and (f) partnerships.

11. Reflecting the scope of investment required and the need to ensure the impact of every dollar invested, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), through its strategic framework for 2016–2025, is stepping up its efforts in the context of the Goals. Underpinned by an overarching vision of "enabling inclusive and sustainable rural transformation", the strategic framework is based around enabling the organization to play a larger role in helping countries fulfil their priorities relating to the 2030 Agenda by: (a) mobilizing substantially more funds and resources for investment in rural areas; (b) strengthening the impact of IFAD country programmes through innovation, knowledge-sharing, partnerships and policy engagement; and (c) delivering development results in a cost-effective way that responds to the evolving needs of member countries. In addition, IFAD has revamped its results management framework around its contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

12. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is fully committed to contributing to the achievement of the Goals, while delivering on its mandate to support member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Organization's medium-term programme framework 2018–2021, adopted by its governing body, the Industrial Development Board, provides strategic guidance for the programmatic activities of the Organization to realize its mandate of supporting countries in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. For the first time, all levels of UNIDO performance and development results are integrated into the programme framework, from the management of its internal operations to the achievement of industry-related Sustainable Development Goals.

13. As adopted by the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board just over a year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Programme's strategic plan for 2017–2021 aligns the organization's work to the 2030 Agenda global call to action, which prioritizes efforts to end poverty, hunger and inequality, encompassing humanitarian as well as development efforts. The strategic plan is guided by the Goals, in particular

Goal 2 on ending hunger and Goal 17 on revitalizing global partnerships for the implementation of the Goals. It introduces a new planning and operational structure, including the implementation of results-based country portfolios that will maximize WFP contribution to governments' efforts towards achieving the Goals.

III. Sustainable Development Goal-specific work programmes

14. Many United Nations system entities have followed up on the strategic decisions of their respective intergovernmental bodies by formulating Sustainable Development Goal-specific work programmes. For example, the programme and budget of ILO for 2018–19 links budget outcomes to relevant Goals and selected priority targets.

15. The International Civil Aviation Organization recognizes that achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals will rely on advances and innovations in sustainable transport, including aviation. Although sustainable transport and aviation are not represented by a stand-alone Goal, they are both mainstreamed across the Goals. In 2016, the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization, at its thirty-ninth session, unanimously adopted resolution A39-25, on aviation's contribution towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In doing so, all 192 member States of the Organization recognized the essential role of aviation in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the fundamental interlinkages between the Goals, the Organization's business plan and its five strategic objectives and the "No country left behind" initiative. As a result, the Goals are now guiding the implementation of the Organization's 2017–2019 business plan. A reporting tool is being rolled out to capture progress on the implementation of the business plan as it contributes to the achievement of the Goals by 2030.

16. The United Nations Environment Programme has integrated the implementation of the Goals into its medium-term strategy for 2018–22 and its programme of work for 2018–19. Over 86 targets are related to environmental sustainability, including at least one in each of the 17 Goals. Thus, the Programme, with its global environmental mandate, takes the lead in facilitating the monitoring and reporting for 26 environment-related indicators as identified in the global indicator framework (see General Assembly resolution 71/313, annex) and also has a key role in promoting coherent delivery on the environmental dimension of all 17 Goals.

17. Within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), dedicated sections of the Office focus on sustainable development and on the right to development, while the work of the whole Office, including its strategic planning, is closely linked with promoting the human rights-based implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which features prominently in OHCHR work at headquarters and in the field. OHCHR contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda through its mainstreaming work at the United Nations inter-agency level, as well as through preparing substantive inputs for the discussions of the high-level political forum, strengthening the capacity of Member States and other stakeholders (including United Nations country teams) as regards the national voluntary reviews, and raising awareness of linkages between the Goals and human rights (including in the context of the high-level political forum).

18. In 2016, the annual report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the implementation of its strategic plan, 2014–2017, contained information, for the first time, on how the implementation of the strategic plan contributed to the implementation of the Goals. The tracking, monitoring and reporting of such support will be further enhanced in the context of the implementation of the strategic plan for 2018–2021. Through the implementation of the strategic plan, 2018–2021, UN-Women provides support to

Member States, at their request, including on integrated policy advice, comprehensive and disaggregated data and capacity development. In the context of the overall orientation of the strategic plan, 2018–2021, UN-Women activities consistently include support for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals.

19. The United Nations Capital Development Fund has articulated its new strategic framework for 2018–2021, which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda, primarily focusing on Goal 1, poverty eradication, and on Goal 17, the means of implementation. The Fund contributes to the achievement of other Goals by identifying targets where local finance solutions can overcome entrenched obstacles to progress. At the programme level, all new programmes will be aligned with at least one or more of the Goals.

20. The United Nations Population Fund strategic plan for 2018–2021 addresses transformative results that will contribute to the achievement of the Goals. The Population Fund is implementing its strategic plan to mobilize and align its institutional strategies in support of the 2030 Agenda and is monitoring the 17 relevant prioritized indicators. Furthermore, the common chapter of the strategic plans of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Population Fund and UN-Women focuses on poverty eradication, gender equality and women's empowerment, data, the humanitarian and development nexus, climate change, adolescent and maternal health and HIV. The roll-out of the common chapter will shape the entities' joint contribution to the implementation of the Goals in a collaborative manner, in accordance with their respective mandates, and in partnership with other members of the United Nations system, by building on each entity's transformative strength.

21. The five strategic priorities of the United Nations Children's Fund[2] (UNICEF) directly relate to 11 of the Goals. Some sector-specific plans and strategies also take the Goals into account. For example, a strategy for health and a strategy for water, sanitation and hygiene, were both developed by UNICEF in 2015 and are aligned with the timeline for the Goals (2016–2030). The health strategy is focused on two overarching goals, which are: (a) end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths and (b) promote the health and development of all children. The water, sanitation and hygiene strategy focuses on the first two targets of Goal 6 as the centrepiece of its programming work. In addition, UNICEF has been strongly focused on ending violence against children and was a key partner in launching the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. UNICEF, together with Save the Children and other key partners, launched the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and released a guide to achieve that vision, which places achieving this goal explicitly within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

22. Given the cross-cutting nature of learning and training, United Nations Institute for Training and Research undertakes multiple programmatic activities as part of its strategic objectives in support of specific Goals. More than 50 per cent of the 75 result areas of its programme budget are aligned with Goals 12, 13 and 16. The Institute also contributes to Goals 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 17. In addition, its strategy in support of Goal 11 also involves greater voice for cities in relevant intergovernmental deliberations.

23. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization is in the process of elaborating a strategy to report on progress towards the Goals through its delivery of technical cooperation in its administrative system. By linking the Organization's

[2] Child protection and social inclusion, child survival, education, emergencies and humanitarian action, and gender equality.

results-based management code to the respective Goals, UNIDO project managers will also be reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

24. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has undertaken a number of initiatives to mainstream the Goals into its programming efforts and technical assistance delivery. Through its Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit, the Office continues to review and advise on new and already existing results frameworks for its global, regional and national projects in order to ensure alignment with the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, in the course of 2017, the Unit conducted training workshops on results-based management and the Goals, in field offices in Central Asia, Pakistan, Eastern Africa, Colombia, Peru and Thailand, and mapped programme and project outcomes and indicators to the Goals. Further workshops for the results-based management quality assurance focal points are planned for 2018. Moreover, during 2017, the Unit developed a manual on results-based management and the Sustainable Development Goals, to be published in 2018, which will guide staff in incorporating the Goals into the project planning, monitoring and evaluation processes of the Office. The Office is currently undergoing a peer review of its results-based management approach. It is expected that the findings of the peer review will help to strengthen the alignment of the Office's work with the Goals.

25. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has prepared an action plan to strengthen the complementarities between its programmes of action and the 2030 Agenda. The action plan provides an analysis of the commonalities and complementarities between the relevant programmes of action and the Goals and set the parameters for how to enhance synergies between those programmes of action and the Goals in the work of the Office. The action plan offers a road map to enhance synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the programmes of action at every stage of the Office's planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting cycle. The Office has also integrated the 2030 Agenda into its programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and included related activities in annual workplans.

26. The Sustainable Development Goals are an important feature in programmes and activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization. Goal 9, in particular its innovation component, is at the heart of the Organization's mission and is the most central to its mandate. Gender equality (Goal 5) and partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17) are cross-cutting issues, which are mainstreamed across all of the Organization's strategic goals. Out of a total of 31 programmes included in the programme and budget for 2018–2019, 20 are linked to the Goals. The Organization's development cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building activities are strategically placed to deliver support to its member States as they integrate the Goals into their national sustainable development plans.

27. In the World Trade Organization, an in-house, interdivisional task force was created in 2016 to deal specifically with coordinating and responding efficiently and effectively to monitoring the achievement of the trade-related targets in the 2030 Agenda. The task force meets at least once every quarter and is chaired by the Deputy Director General of the Organization. The Organization has since worked towards several of the targets that pertain to trade, beginning with Goal 2 on zero hunger, more specifically target 2.b, which urges the reduction of distortions in agricultural markets. Similarly, as relates to Goal 3 on good health, an amendment to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights will make it easier for developing countries to have a secure legal pathway for access to affordable medicines in line with target 3.b. In addition, for Goal 8, the Organization continues to be successful in mobilizing resources under the Aid for Trade initiative, in line with target 8.a.

28. While not addressing specific Goals, the strategic plan for 2018–2021 of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and sets out the Office's ambition to become a recognized resource entity, providing collaborative advantages that expand the implementation capacity of Governments, the United Nations and other partners, in support of the 2030 Agenda. Bearing in mind the universality, mutual reinforcement and interdependence of the 17 Goals, UNOPS seeks to make direct and indirect contributions towards the achievement of all the Goals.

IV. Supporting Member States to accelerate implementation

29. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has started collaborating with national governments on the alignment of the Goals with relevant regional development strategies and national sectoral strategies. In Africa, FAO advocated the inclusion of provisions relating to the Goals in the key regional strategies related to agriculture, such as the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, as well as the mainstreaming of the Goals in respective national strategic and investment plans.

30. As part of its programming directions for the seventh replenishment period (2018–2022), the Global Environment Facility proposes to support countries with integrated national planning to enhance coordinated planning and coordination in respect of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda. By facilitating the convergence of national plans for the implementation of the Goals with the priorities and objectives of multilateral environmental agreements, the Facility is assisting decision makers with integrated formulation and implementation of policies and actions by taking the Goals into account together with multilateral environmental agreements, rather than in a fragmented fashion.

31. The Technical Cooperation Programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency serves as a major vehicle for technology transfer and capacity-building. It comprises national, regional and interregional projects formulated within areas where nuclear techniques can address development challenges, such as hunger, human health, energy and climate change. The Agency is working closely with its member States and supports them in their efforts to achieve the Goals, and has organized numerous outreach events during major conferences on how nuclear technology can help to achieve the Goals.

32. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its partners provide analytical and technical assistance and/or capacity-building support to countries in implementing their various work streams relating to the Convention. In so doing, the secretariat also provides support for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The extent and specifics of the support provided vary depending on each work programme, country needs, strategic priorities and the availability of funds, among other factors. The short-term action plan (2017–2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, which was adopted by the parties to the Convention in December 2016, includes more than 100 concrete activities relating to various Aichi Biodiversity Targets and will contribute to implementing Goals 14 and 15, among others.

33. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction provides normative and technical support to countries to integrate disaster risk reduction into their national development plans and policies. Such activities include the provision of support in taking a disaster-risk informed approach to national strategies for achieving the

Goals; in implementing the 2030 Agenda in accordance with disaster risk reduction-specific indicators; and in promoting the integration of national and local disaster reduction strategies, which are to be developed by 2020 in accordance with the relevant target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (see General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II, para. 18).

34. UN-Women provides support to Member States in the development of national development strategies and national gender equality action plans. In 2016, UN-Women provided such support to 82 countries in order to strengthen gender equality priorities in their national, sectorial and local development plans and budgets. As a result, 28 countries reported increases in budget allocations towards achieving Goal 5, on gender equality and women's empowerment.

35. Through its multisectoral, multi-stakeholder approach, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) aims to advance country-level progress towards ending AIDS while contributing to broader health, development, gender equality and human rights outcomes. The entire strategy of UNAIDS promotes the advancement of a rights-based, inclusive approach that ensures a people-centred response that is built on the participation of civil society, women, young people, people living with HIV and key populations, thereby leaving no one behind.

36. With regard to the implementation of specific programmes for integrating technical assistance, analytical research and capacity-building activities, the Programme for Country Partnership of UNIDO is an innovative model for accelerating the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It is becoming an instrument to operationalize the Organization's mandate and, by extension, to achieve Goal 9.

37. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is currently assisting six Western Balkan countries and United Nations system entities to strengthen the mainstreaming of the Goals and the implementation thereof in the context of accession to the European Union.

38. The member countries of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement met in 2015, 2016 and 2017 to undertake a budget analysis so as to ensure more and better spending to tackle the underlying causes of malnutrition, and to generate increased resources from both domestic and external sources. The analysis is conducted through the regular tracking of budget allocations relating to nutrition against multisectoral nutrition plans, in a transparent manner. By 2017, 47 countries had conducted an analysis of their government budgets, with 22 countries having done so for the second time.

V. Working in partnership

39. In their efforts to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations system entities are increasingly moving away from silos to seeking interlinkages among the Goals. There is also a clear willingness to enhance collaboration within the system as well as with business and civil society stakeholders, building on comparative advantages and focusing on adding value to efforts at the country level towards achieving the Goals.

40. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has partnered with the World Bank Group in a number of areas to support the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, along with the United Nations, the World Bank Group and others, IMF is part of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, which aims to better support countries in the challenges they face in relation to their tax systems. The Fund also participates regularly in meetings of the United Nations System Chief Executives

Board for Coordination (CEB) and meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus.

41. Collaboration between IFAD and its Rome-based agency partners, FAO and WFP, has been elevated to a strategic level in response to the growing impetus for the three agencies to enhance their collaboration in the context of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, FAO, IFAD and WFP developed a joint strategy on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies for delivering on the 2030 Agenda. Collaboration is ongoing on joint servicing initiatives and on support for project design, supervision and implementation.

42. As a United Nations specialized agency, the International Telecommunication Union collaborates and interacts with entities within the United Nations system. It participates in governance processes, subsidiary mechanisms, inter-agency coordination networks and in joint initiatives in order to foster greater cooperation, information and knowledge-sharing so as to achieve coherence and synergies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress towards the Goals. In this regard, the Union participates in the following coordination mechanisms: CEB, including the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus, the Regional Coordination Mechanism, the Inter-Agency Task Team of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

43. Partnership with all major stakeholder groups is considered a key to achieving food and nutrition security. FAO member States adopted a strategy for partnerships with civil society organizations and a strategy for partnerships with the private sector to strengthen corporate and country-focused engagements with the private sector, business enterprises, civil society and non-governmental organizations, farmer organizations, especially those supporting women farmers, academia and parliamentarians. The main areas of collaboration relate to FAO field programmes, knowledge-sharing and capacity development, policy dialogue, the joint use of resources, normative activities, advocacy and communication, and South-South cooperation.

44. The International Monetary Fund also engages on a regular basis with civil society organizations in order to promote progress towards achieving the Goals, including more recently in the context of the pilot initiatives on inequality and gender. For example, the Fund's team for the Republic of the Congo had constructive discussions with civil society organizations on governance in the oil sector, which helped in the design of governance measures to reduce poverty and inequality. In Zambia, the inclusion of water and sanitation as part of social spending in the programme supported by IMF drew on a recent position paper, prepared by civil society organizations, on gender and inequality issues.

45. While OHCHR routinely and at all levels engages with various stakeholders, some of the main stakeholders the Office works with are national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, including representatives of grass-roots organizations and marginalized groups. OHCHR supports the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, which, in line with the Merida Declaration, emphasizes the role of such institutions in the achievement of the Goals.

46. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has worked through urban observatories, city leadership and local government ministries to engage local stakeholder groups in various countries. At the regional and national levels, UN-Habitat has worked with such relevant regional bodies as the regional commissions of the United Nations, regional mapping agencies, United Cities and Local Governments and others to engage blocks of countries and/or cities in

supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals. At the global level, UN-Habitat also works directly with United Nations system entities, other multilateral international agencies and organizations to support the achievement of the Goals.

47. The Universal Postal Union has been engaging with private sector stakeholders. In the area of financial inclusion, the Union has developed a technical assistance scheme with the support of external stakeholders (Visa and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) for the implementation of financial inclusion projects through digital financial services at the country level. In its engagement with private sector and other relevant stakeholder groups, the Union, through its Consultative Committee, which gathers the postal stakeholders at large (clients, workers' unions, industry groups, non-governmental organizations, etc.), is promoting the implementation of the relevant Goals in line with the Union's strategy in the fields of trade facilitation and e-commerce in developing countries. In addition, a number of postal services and private operators have integrated efforts to achieve the Goals into their strategies as a part of their corporate social responsibility policies.

48. The World Bank Group recognizes that a central tenet of the Goals is partnership at the global, regional, and country levels and with that in mind, the Group is providing a platform for coordinated action. Partnership is one of the Group's key pillars in support of the 2030 Agenda. The Group is involved in numerous global partnerships among different stakeholders: the private sector, local governments and mayors, civil society, foundations, academia and youth.

49. The World Health Organization attaches great value to expanding engagement with Governments, United Nations system entities and civil society stakeholders in the planning, monitoring and implementation of efforts towards achieving the health-related Goals at all levels. For example, the Organization works closely with member States and their implementing partners to support the development of national strategic plans and programme reviews with regard to malaria, strengthening work on vector control, surveillance and elimination. Through its Stop Tuberculosis Department, the Organization has been collaborating actively with UNICEF, UNAIDS, ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration on specific interventions and multisectoral collaboration towards ending epidemics and supporting vulnerable groups (including children, workers, refugees and migrants). Through its Global Malaria Programme, the Organization is working with UNOPS on the implementation of two work streams, funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in support of the Strategy for Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion through (a) the monitoring of antimalarial drug efficacy and resistance in the Subregion; and (b) establishing a malaria elimination database for the Subregion. The HIV Department collaborates, and has launched joint country envelopes and planning, with UNAIDS, UNICEF and across the United Nations.

50. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has worked with other United Nations system entities, such as the International Organization for Migration, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons, to ensure that all persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are included in its guiding vision through the principle of leaving no one behind that underpins the 2030 Agenda. As set out in the Office's strategic directions for 2017–2021, the Office will build on the commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, and on the Sustainable Development Goals to promote the inclusion of refugees, the internally displaced and stateless people in national development frameworks. The Office has also been engaging with States, host communities, civil society and key national service providers to promote the inclusion of refugees,

internally displaced and stateless people in mainstream national systems, including health and education, pending durable solutions to their displacement. Additional guidance has been developed by the Office relating to programming specifically for education and for the prevention of and response to statelessness, in order to further support the achievement of the relevant Goals. The establishment of the Division of Resilience and Solutions at the headquarters level in 2018 is further in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, bearing in mind the development-humanitarian nexus. The Division will foster and institutionalize closer partnerships to ensure the Goals of the 2030 Agenda are achieved for displaced populations.

51. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is currently working on a global space partnership in support of the Goals. Through that partnership, the Office would act as a "one-stop shop", coordinating among multiple providers of space-derived data, information, services and products. The Office is currently developing a "Space for women" project, which is expected to be launched in late 2018. It is strongly linked to Goal 5, on the empowerment of women and gender equality, and Goal 4, on quality education, and is an example of how the Office is reshaping its projects to be more in line with the Goals and with a view to fostering partnerships for developing innovative solutions that will assist countries in monitoring progress towards and achieving the Goals.

VI. Conclusion

52. Mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development is essential to achieving the vision and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, such mainstreaming embodies the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, with the emphasis on linkages and nexuses, the imperative of moving from silos to integration and synergies, and the spirit of partnerships, none of which will materialize in the absence of progress in the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The survey findings suggest that the United Nations system organizations are stepping up to this challenge by aligning their work programmes and priorities with the Goals, by initiating organizational change and by linking results-based management with the delivery of the Goals.

53. The initiatives outlined in the present report are encouraging steps in the right direction and they deserve to be supported and nurtured so as to ensure their impact in supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals. United Nations system organizations should also consider learning from each other and exchanging experiences and lessons learned on how to mainstream the three dimensions of sustainable development, keeping in mind their respective mandates and comparative advantages. In the final analysis, mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development should be an integral part of the work programmes of all United Nations system entities and of their organizational structure.

United Nations E/2018/60

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2018

Original: English

2018 session
27 July 2017–26 July 2018
Agenda item 6
High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

Progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General is transmitting herewith the progress report on the10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/203, 68/210, 69/214 and 70/201. The present report follows the annual reports submitted in 2015 (E/2015/56), 2016 (E/2016/62) and 2017 (E/2017/63). The objectives of the present report are to share with Member States and stakeholders the progress of the 10-year framework at the halfway point, highlighting key outputs and outcomes and presenting the way forward for the coming five years. The report is hereby submitted through the Economic and Social Council for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018.

18-06631 (E) 170518

Please recycle

I. Sustainable consumption and production for integrated delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. The way societies use, manage and protect natural resources fundamentally shapes the well-being of humanity, the environment and the economy. Decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation is not just an imperative, it is an opportunity for a wise use of resources compatible with limited planetary resources, innovation and sustainable development. Sustainable consumption and production is one of the most cost-effective and efficient ways to achieve economic development, reduce impacts on the environment and advance human well-being.

2. The Secretary-General has highlighted significant gaps regarding Sustainable Development Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, which is currently covered in a fragmented and piecemeal way (see A/72/124-E/2018/3, para. 53). The ambition and breadth of the Sustainable Development Goals make them simply unattainable without robust partnerships (see A/72/684-E/2018/7, para. 130). The scale and pace of concerted actions by all actors of society, including government, business and civil society, needs to be embraced and dramatically stepped up in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Achieving sustainable consumption and production will deliver not only Sustainable Development Goal 12, but simultaneously contribute significantly to the achievement of almost all the Goals, directly or indirectly.[1] Though Goal 12 is a stand-alone Goal, sustainable consumption and production should be seen as an enabler for the implementation of a range of other Goals and many of their targets. Actions and policies required to achieve the objective of Goal 12 seek to decouple economic growth from resource use and a range of other impacts on the environment and their associated effects on poverty eradication and shared prosperity. The relationship between sustainable consumption and production and other Sustainable Development Goals is reinforced by targets that link economic growth and education directly to the achievement of sustainable consumption and production targets in Goals 4 and 8, and through the effective duplication of those targets in Goal 12.

4. Target 12.1 of Sustainable Development Goal 12 calls for the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. Adopted in 2012, the 10-year framework is a global commitment to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries.

5. The One Planet network was formed to implement the 10-year framework, which supports the global shift to sustainable consumption and production and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development, generating collective impact through its six programmes: public procurement, buildings and construction, tourism, food systems, consumer information and lifestyles and education.

6. In 2017, the 10-year framework reached its halfway point, providing an opportunity to take stock of the progress, achievements and lessons learned during its first five years and further define priorities for the next five years. The review at its midterm included: (a) an evaluation of the progress of the 10-year framework from 2012–2017, based on the framework set out in "Indicators of success: demonstrating

[1] International Resource Panel, *Assessing Global Resource Use: A Systems Approach to Resource Efficiency and Pollution Reduction* (Nairobi, United Nations Environment Programme, 2017). Available from www.resourcepanel.org/sites/default/files/documents/document/media/assessing_global_resource_use_amended_130318.pdf.

the shift to sustainable consumption and production";[2] (b) an independent external review;[3] and (c) the development of the five-year strategy for the period 2018–2022, entitled "One Plan for One Planet".[4]

7. Progress reporting for the period 2012–2017 identifies a variety of solutions within the network that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production, such as knowledge resources, technical tools, policies and policy instruments, which have the potential to foster or have already led to tangible changes to sustainable consumption and production practices in countries and organizations. While cost-effective and high-impact solutions exist, reporting results indicate that effecting concrete changes in practices and impacts remains a challenge.

8. The independent external review identified the commitment made in 2012 and the multi-stakeholder network that formed to support its implementation as key achievements that have the potential to be transformational. The review also highlighted the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal 12 in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development as a key opportunity, and the slow and fragmented action on sustainable consumption and production as a key challenge to address.

9. Building on the comprehensive stocktaking conducted at the halfway point of the 10-year framework, the strategy for 2018–2022 has been developed by a dedicated task force representing the different groups in the network. The five-year strategy defines a common vision and outlines common objectives, strategic principles and approaches across the network to deliver a long-term vision and enable the strategic use of the diverse strengths of the network.

10. The present report sets out key outputs and outcomes of the network during the 2012–2017 period and identifies opportunities and challenges to be addressed in the years ahead. It has been prepared, on behalf of the Board of the 10-year framework, by the secretariat of the 10-year framework. It responds to General Assembly resolution 70/201, in which the Assembly requested the Board and secretariat of the 10-year framework to submit updated reports for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

II. Monitoring the shift to sustainable consumption and production

11. Monitoring the shift to sustainable consumption and production is critical to identifying emerging trends and strategic gaps, demonstrating and showcasing the benefits of sustainable consumption and production to build greater momentum for change and effectively supporting the implementation of sustainable practices. As such, the monitoring and reporting framework entitled "Indicators of success: demonstrating the shift to sustainable consumption and production" guides and measures, in a participatory way, the collective impact of the global shift to sustainable consumption and production.

Results of progress reporting, 2012–2017

12. The One Planet network, which was formed to implement the 10-year framework, actively contributed to the identification of emerging trends by reporting activities and results that contribute to the shift to sustainable consumption and production. Since "we can only manage what we can measure", understanding current

[2] Available from http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/10yfp_indicators_of_success_2017_pdf.pdf.

[3] Available from http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/ier_final.pdf.

[4] Available from http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/strategy_one_planet.pdf.

efforts, approaches and solutions for sustainable consumption and production is essential to overcoming fragmentation and identifying innovative and impactful practices and requirements for scaling up, replicating and fostering collaboration.

13. The network's progress on the shift to sustainable consumption and production between 2012 and 2017 has been conducted through the midterm report entitled "Indicators of success: demonstrating the shift to sustainable consumption and production". The results presented in that report stem from data on activities implemented by partners of the One Planet network that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production at local, national, regional and global levels.[5]

Midterm progress results, 2013–2017

Indicator		*Total reported*	*Unit of measurement*
1.1	Projects supporting sustainable consumption and production	239	Number of projects supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production
1.2	Amount of financial resources (United States dollars) made available[a]	148 647 957	United States dollars made available in support of the shift to sustainable consumption and production
1.3	Training on sustainable consumption and production	198	Number of training sessions on sustainable consumption and production
		919 260	Number of person-days of training on sustainable consumption and production
2.1	Sustainable consumption and production network	714	Number of governments and organizations engaged in the 10-year framework and its programmes
2.2	Outreach and communication for sustainable consumption and production	538	Number of outreach and communication activities focusing on sustainable consumption and production
2.3	Production of knowledge and technical tools	396	Number of sustainable consumption and production knowledge resources and technical tools produced
3.1	Sustainable consumption and production in policy instruments	336	Number of policies/policy instruments being developed, adopted and implemented
		632	Number of governments and organizations developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production
3.2	Sustainable consumption and production monitoring and reporting	26	Number of monitoring and reporting instruments officially established
		497	Number of governments and organizations officially establishing monitoring and reporting on sustainable consumption and production
3.3	Education on sustainable consumption and production	13	Number of sustainable consumption and production topics integrated into education practices
		33	Number of countries integrating sustainable consumption and production topics into education practices

[5] Due to the nature of the One Planet network, data quality may vary from indicator to indicator and programme to programme. All data presented are dynamic and managed by the programme partners. The data are therefore subject to annual progress updates and further data quality assurance processes to continuously improve reporting processes and systems for the 10-year framework, and to ensure reliable and consistent reporting on framework activities related to sustainable consumption and production and indicator 12.1.1 of Sustainable Development Goal 12.

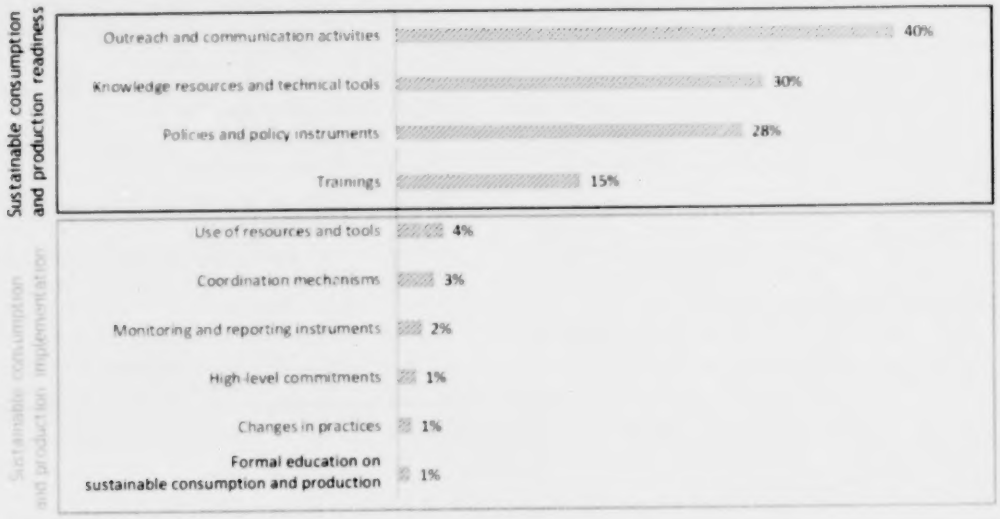
Indicator		*Total reported*	*Unit of measurement*
3.4	Changes in sustainable consumption and production practices	88	Number of changes in practices and production processes that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production
		326	Number of governments and organizations making changes in practices
3.5	Sustainable consumption and production commitments	20	Number of high-level resolutions, declarations and outcome documents
		1 217	Number of governments and organizations making high-level commitments
3.6	Coordination on sustainable consumption and production	40	Number of intersectoral and/or multi-stakeholder mechanisms for coordination on sustainable consumption and production
3.7	Use of knowledge and technical tools	142 793	Number of downloads from the Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearinghouse website and any other quantitative representations of use

[a] Financial value extracted from reported budgets of sustainable consumption and production projects (indicator 1.1).

14. More than 1,800 activities relating to the shift to sustainable consumption and production have been reported across the network. The most-implemented activities across the network were outreach and communication (32 per cent), knowledge resources and technical tools produced (24 per cent) and policies (22 per cent), indicating the readiness of organizations to implement sustainable consumption and production actions. However, the understanding of how those knowledge resources and technical tools were used and by whom remains limited, as information on the use of technical resources was provided for only 12 per cent of responses. Furthermore, monitoring and reporting on policy implementation (2 per cent) and the adoption of new or improved practices, including in education (2 per cent), was low, indicating a clear gap between the development of policies and tools and their implementation.

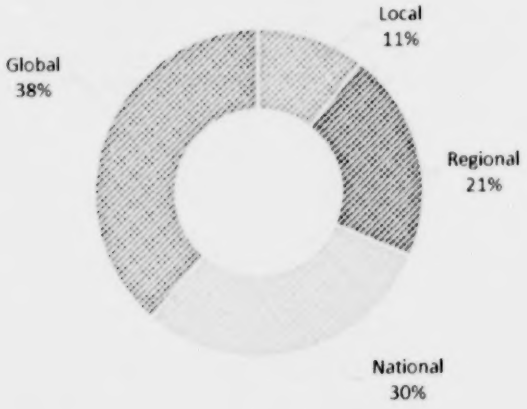
15. The adoption of new or improved practices has been led primarily by businesses, representing 40 per cent of the total changes reported across the network. Changes in practices offer tangible solutions for the shift to sustainable consumption and production that address both environmental and social impacts. A strengthened engagement of the business sector would enable the identification of further such innovations and solutions.

Figure I
Type of activities implemented by partners of the One Planet network, 2012–2017



16. More than 250 partners, ranging from large global institutions, corporations and governments to small- and medium-sized enterprises and local non-governmental organizations, reported their contributions to the shift to sustainable consumption and production. The types of partners that have led the implementation of the most activities contributing to the shift to sustainable consumption and production are international organizations (45 per cent) and civil society (24 per cent), followed by national governments (13 per cent), scientific and technical organizations (10 per cent), businesses (7 per cent) and local authorities (1 per cent).

Figure II
Scope of activities implemented by partners of the One Planet network, 2012–2017



17. The scope of the activities are primarily global (38 per cent), national (30 per cent) and regional (21 per cent). The knowledge resources and technical tools produced are mostly global in nature, as is awareness-raising, whereas policies and training are mostly conducted at the national level. The most active regions in the

implementation of activities supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production are Europe and Central Asia (22 per cent), Asia-Pacific (20 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (14 per cent) and Africa (11 per cent), followed by North America (2 per cent) and the Middle East (1 per cent).

Pilot reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1: national policies on sustainable consumption and production

18. Pilot reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1 was conducted in 2017. Seventy-one countries and the European Union reported a total of 303 initiatives through pilot reporting, of which 43 per cent were policies at the national level, 44 per cent were regulatory, voluntary or economic instruments and 13 per cent were coordination mechanisms. Nearly half of all initiatives reported emanated from European countries.[6] Other sources of information bring the number of countries that have or have had national policies and initiatives relevant to sustainable consumption and production to 109, including 40 countries with stand-alone policies on sustainable consumption and/or production.[7]

Figure III
Countries with national policies and initiatives relevant to sustainable consumption and production, past and ongoing
(Based on available data, 2018)

19. Well-designed national policy frameworks and instruments are necessary to enable the fundamental shift in the way people consume and produce. The pilot

[6] Given the overrepresentation of Europe in the sample of reported policies and instruments, global trends should be checked against regional trends.

[7] Other sources include the pilot survey conducted in 2015 by the United Nations Environment Programme, acting as the secretariat of the 10-year framework, and the subsequent global report entitled "Shaping the economy of sustainable development: an overview of national policies and initiatives supporting the shift towards sustainable consumption and production" (parts of which are available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/shaping-economy-sustainable-development). For various reasons, the policies and instruments identified may no longer be active, or could have been only partly implemented, transformed or prematurely terminated. Therefore, the map in figure III does not necessarily reflect the status of such policies and instruments worldwide, but rather the fact that some initial steps have been taken that can be scaled up and replicated at scale.

reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1 clearly shows that, for the past 15 years, national policies and instruments promoting that shift have been increasing in all regions, a trend which has intensified since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, the adoption of the 10-year framework at that Conference and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015.

20. Governments can mainstream sustainable consumption and production objectives into cross-cutting national policies (37 per cent of policies reported), mainstream objectives into sectoral policies (34 per cent) or create stand-alone policies specifically focused on sustainable consumption and production (29 per cent). In general, the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production objectives into cross-cutting policies at the national level leads to slightly better performance results compared with stand-alone national policies in terms of domestic investments, inclusiveness and monitoring: for instance, national policies that integrate sustainable consumption and production objectives are more often monitored (76 per cent), compared with stand-alone policies (48 per cent).

21. According to the pilot reporting, there was a good balance between regulatory and voluntary approaches (46 per cent and 43 per cent respectively), while economic and financial instruments were only 11 per cent of all reported instruments. Only 20 per cent of the reported policies and instruments were considered relevant to the financial sector. More innovative and dynamic instruments are needed to trigger transformative changes in the way the economies operate, creating drivers and incentives, generating new incomes and redirecting investments. The structural role that sustainable consumption and production policies and measures could play in boosting sustainable financial investments, economic growth and job creation has not yet been fully tackled.

22. An integrated approach to sustainable consumption and production requires strong coordination across a government. However, of the 71 countries that have reported on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1, only 26 have shared information on national coordination mechanisms at the national level. Those mechanisms are mainly used for sharing information and identifying synergies, and only a few are mandated to coordinate policy implementation across ministries (10 per cent). In the meantime, the necessity to engage all relevant stakeholders, especially those in the business sector and civil society, has been well understood: stakeholders other than national ministries and specialized agencies were involved in the design or implementation of 85 per cent of 262 reported policies and instruments.[8]

23. Shifting to sustainable consumption and production at scale requires national public policies that create conducive environments, social and physical infrastructures and markets. Government action can and should contribute to establishing such conditions. Significant steps have been taken, but implementation at scale remains a challenge, as does increasing and equitably distributing the socioeconomic benefits of the transformation. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the One Planet network, have a key role to play in those interrelated tasks for sustainable development.

Demonstrating the impacts of the shift to sustainable consumption and production

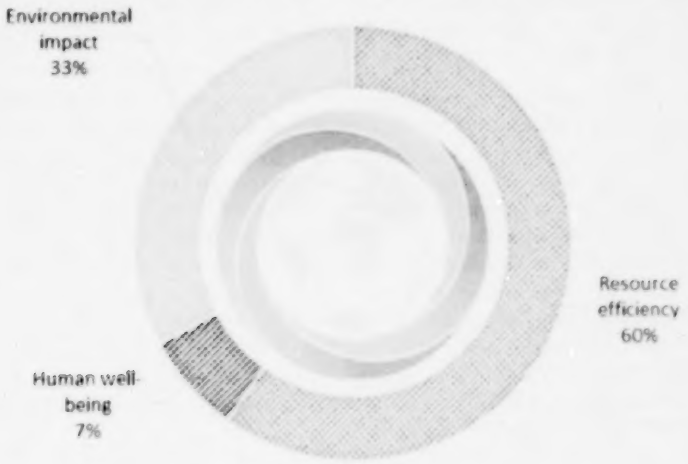
24. Improving the well-being of people while minimizing resource use and environmental impacts, in particular through enhanced resource efficiency, is an essential aspect of delivering on Sustainable Development Goal 12.[9] The sustainable

[8] Excluding coordination mechanisms.

[9] See International Resource Panel, *Assessing Global Resource Use*, p. 9.

consumption and production impact indicators identified in "Indicators of success" focus on resource efficiency, environmental impacts and human well-being as key areas of the impact of shifting to sustainable consumption and production. The connection between human well-being and the environment was further recognized in 2017, when the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a resolution on environment and health recommending the inclusion of a cross-cutting indicator on health and well-being in "Indicators of Success" (see UNEP/EA.3/Res.4, para. 38).

Figure IV
Impact of activities implemented by actors of the One Planet network



25. The International Resource Panel estimates that policies and initiatives focusing on resource efficiency could reduce natural resource use globally by 26 per cent by 2050.[10] The One Planet network actively seeks to contribute to realizing such estimates. For instance, 933 activities implemented by partners in the network are projected to have an impact on increasing resource efficiency at global, national or local levels, in particular in relation to material use (277), waste management (226) and energy use efficiency (336). In addition, the International Resource Panel estimates that resource efficiency policies and initiatives can lead to global emissions falling to 63 per cent below 2010 levels by 2050.[11] Partners of the One Planet network have implemented 301 activities that are estimated to have an impact on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, indicating the potential contribution of the network to realizing that 2050 projection.

26. It is estimated that approximately 19 million premature deaths occur globally each year due to environmental and infrastructure-related risk factors that arise from the way societies use natural resources in production and consumption systems, including essential infrastructure and food provision.[12] However, pilot reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1 and the midterm reporting of the One Planet network show that there is a "social gap", as social benefits are still weakly perceived and rarely included as objectives or measures. For example, only 117 activities (8 per cent) are aimed at having an impact on human well-being, including health, decent work and gender equality, and only 44 activities (3 per cent)

[10] Ibid., p. 12.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid., p. 17.

are aimed at having an impact on the prevalence of illnesses and deaths due to non-communicable diseases and pollution.

III. The One Planet network: multi-stakeholder partnerships to enable a systemic transformation

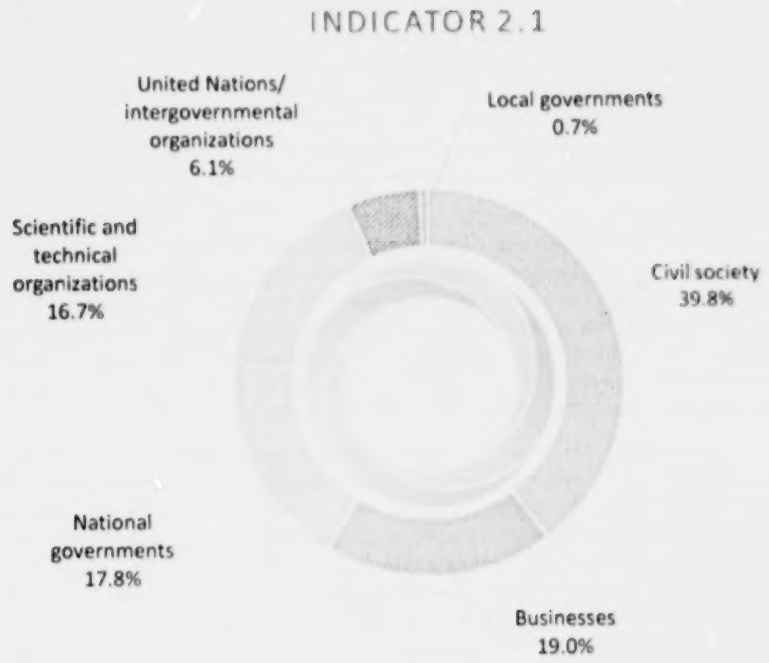
27. The shift to sustainable consumption and production requires a systemic approach, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaborations across governments, local authorities, businesses, civil society, scientific organizations, international organizations and citizens. Such partnerships are essential to supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as affirmed by Sustainable Development Goal 17.

28. A broader systemic transformation will require concerted action from (a) scientific institutions, to understand what is needed; (b) businesses, to identify solutions and create net positive impacts; (c) policymakers, to create conducive environments and social and physical infrastructures and regulate markets; (d) civil society, to strengthen advocacy and campaigning and promote behaviour change; and (e) international organizations, to broker diverse partnerships for innovative solutions. According to the Secretary-General, people will need to mobilize both existing and additional finance, technology, knowledge and expertise, which countries can then apply to accelerate progress. In recognition of that need, people must harness the convening power of the United Nations through platforms where stakeholders can meaningfully engage, build trust, exchange know-how and technologies, strengthen relationships and foster synergy and coherence to achieve results (see A/72/124-E/2018/3, para. 41).

The One Planet network: an operational implementation mechanism on sustainable consumption and production

29. The One Planet network is a multi-stakeholder network composed of more than 700 partners, including national and local governments, civil society, businesses, scientific and technical organizations and international organizations. Beyond the 611 partners engaged directly with the programmes, the network also includes 130 national focal points, stakeholder focal points and the 22 members of its United Nations inter-agency group. Through the active participation of its stakeholders, the One Planet network has the potential to be transformational by fostering integrated and cross-sectoral approaches, joint value creation and innovation, scaling up successful practices and pooling resources and expertise.

Figure V
Composition of the One Planet network



30. The formation, establishment and operationalization of the One Planet network is a key achievement in response to the commitment made with the adoption of the 10-year framework. At the conclusion of the first five years of the framework, it is clear that building multi-stakeholder partnerships requires time, effort and resources. Investment in the initial phases of the partnership is critical in order to build trust and relationships, ensure ownership and ensure the strong engagement of partners, while laying the foundation for successful implementation. That is further confirmed by the independent external review, which found that the 10-year framework and its network is recognized by stakeholders as a global platform that brings together a variety of actors, expertise, resources and activities to deliver sustainable consumption and production, and offers opportunities to network, share knowledge, provide and obtain technical assistance, increase capacities and raise awareness on sustainable consumption and production.

31. The One Planet network is facilitated through its six thematic programmes, which: (a) build synergies and cooperation, bringing together existing initiatives and partners and leveraging resources towards common objectives; (b) scale up and replicate successful policies and best practices for sustainable consumption and production, responding to national and regional needs, priorities and circumstances; and (c) generate and support new collaborative projects and activities on sustainable consumption and production in response to regional and national priorities and needs as they emerge.[13]

[13] See http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/annex_i_programme_overviews.pdf for an overview of programme structures and achievements.

32. More specifically, as accelerators within their respective fields of expertise:

(a) The Consumer Information programme serves as a global platform to support the provision of quality information on goods and services and the identification and implementation of the most effective strategies to engage consumers in sustainable consumption. It empowers and raises the profile of relevant policies, strategies, projects and partnerships, building synergies and cooperation between different stakeholders to leverage resources towards three main objectives: improving the availability, accessibility and quality of consumer information; driving change in government and business; and enhancing communication to drive behaviour change;

(b) The Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme aims at improving the knowledge of sustainable construction and to support and mainstream sustainable building solutions to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the planning, commissioning, design, construction, use, management and decommissioning of buildings have a common understanding and the knowledge, resources and incentives required to create, maintain and use sustainable buildings. The programme facilitates the sharing of good practices, launches implementation projects, creates cooperation and commits more actors around the world to sustainable construction;

(c) The Sustainable Food Systems programme aims to accelerate the shift towards sustainable food systems through both normative as well as action-oriented work implemented by collaborative initiatives at different levels. The programme addresses global challenges by using a holistic, system-based approach to encourage more integrated and inclusive policymaking. The initiatives of the programme promote awareness-raising activities, strengthen capacities and enabling environments and increase access to information, knowledge and tools, focusing on the areas of sustainable diets, sustainable value chains, resilient food production systems and food loss and waste reduction;

(d) The Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme is committed to shaping, scaling up and developing and replicating sustainable lifestyles, including low-carbon lifestyles. The programme is focused on promoting innovative models and traditional practices consistent with sustainable lifestyles, supporting conducive policies, infrastructures and economic instruments and encouraging responsible market innovation. It also supports education for sustainable lifestyles by mainstreaming those concepts into formal education and learning environments and empowering youth, and by transforming the lifestyles of the current generation and shaping those of future generations through sustainable lifestyle scenarios, frameworks and tools to assess lifestyle impacts;

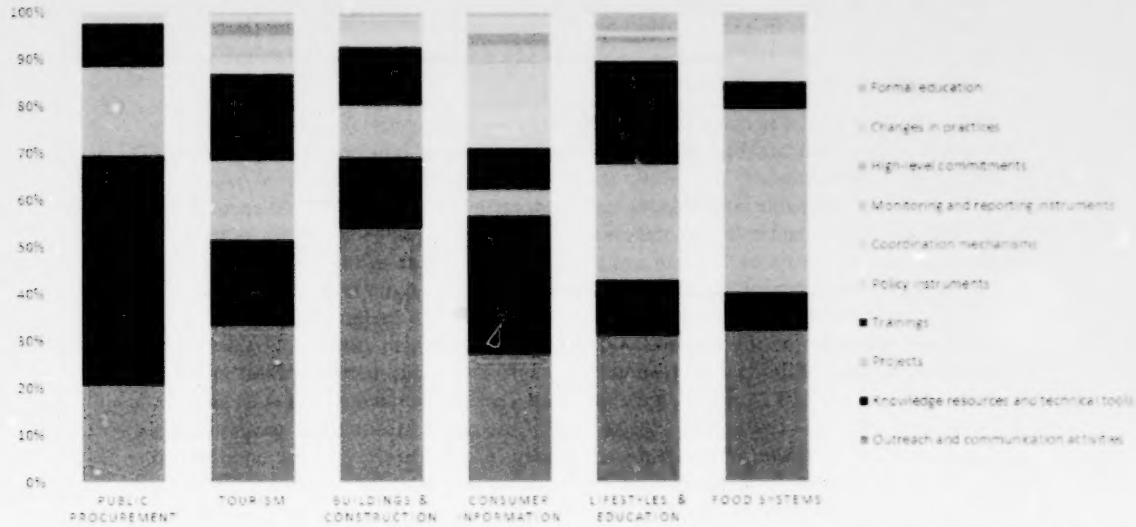
(e) The Sustainable Public Procurement programme aims to build the case for sustainable public procurement by improving knowledge of the topic and its effectiveness as a tool to promote sustainable consumption and production and support greener economies and sustainable development. Furthermore, the programme aims to support the implementation of sustainable public procurement on the ground through increased collaboration and better access to capacity-building tools and support from experts on sustainable public procurement;

(f) The Sustainable Tourism programme envisions a tourism sector that has adopted sustainable consumption and production practices that result in enhanced environmental and social outcomes and improved economic performance. Its mission is to catalyse a transformation for sustainability through evidence-based decision-making, efficiency, innovation, collaboration among stakeholders, monitoring and the adoption of a lifecycle approach for continuous improvement. Through the development and implementation of activities, projects and good practices in resource-efficient and low-carbon tourism, the programme steers the tourism sector towards enhanced sustainability by reducing the loss of biodiversity and preserving

ecosystems and cultural heritage while advancing poverty alleviation and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

33. Midway through the 10-year framework, partners of the six programmes have reported 447 core activities initiated, developed and/or implemented collaboratively and 1,071 affiliated activities that contribute to the objectives of the 10-year framework.[14] Further details and examples of those activities are presented later in the report.

Figure VI
Activities by programme, 2012–2017



Setting the agenda

34. Gathering partners across sectors, regions and types of stakeholders offers key opportunities to align goals and set the global agenda regarding areas of sustainable consumption and production. For example, the Sustainable Food Systems programme organized its first global conference, hosted by South Africa. The conference was organized by Costa Rica, Switzerland, South Africa, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and received financial support from Nestlé and contributions from various programme partners and external organizations. More than 130 organizations participated in the conference, which included knowledge-sharing through best practices, a series of learning sessions and a "Taste of Waste" dinner event serving rescued food. The "Pretoria Resolution",[15] issued at the end of the conference and signed by its organizing committee, is a call for stronger political commitment to provide appropriate food policy frameworks backed by investment and the means for

[14] 10YFP, "10YFP network in action: programme portfolios", 2017. Available from http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/10yfp_programme_portfolios_key_principles_and_approaches_0.pdf.

[15] A draft of the resolution is available from https://gallery.mailchimp.com/hd25991920400ec9f5870de1e/files/dbf2a50d-97c4-41b9-b847-899c1d5c11cc/1st_Global_10YFP_SFS_Programme_Conference_Resolution_Pretoria.pdf.

implementation. It recognizes that addressing the heavy burden of malnutrition is the priority entry point into changing currently unsustainable food systems.

35. Within the Sustainable Tourism programme, the leads and co-leads of the programme, in collaboration with UNEP, developed "The Kasane call to action on sustainable tourism: the tourism we want" as the programme's contribution to the legacy of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The call aims to transform the way tourism is developed and managed by providing guidance on critical issues and opportunities for the sector to accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production. The call addresses four action points: lead the creation of the necessary conditions for sustainable consumption and production in tourism; innovate to accelerate the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices in tourism; finance a shift towards sustainable consumption and production practices in tourism; and empower actors to scale up sustainable consumption and production practices in tourism.

36. The One Planet network, through the influence of its various partners, enables the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production into broader agendas and high-level commitments. In 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.2/Res.8) encouraged all member States and relevant stakeholders to take ambitious action to implement the 10-year framework and to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are related to sustainable consumption and production. That call was further strengthened by other resolutions and declarations in 2017. The Second Committee of the General Assembly acknowledged the Sustainable Food Systems programme in its draft resolution on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/C.2/72/L.59), which was subsequently adopted by the Assembly in December 2017 as resolution 72/238. The Consumer Information programme's *Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information*[16] were included in the Environment Assembly resolution on environment and health (UNEP/EA.3/Res.4). Also in 2017, the concept of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and sustainable tourism components and considerations were integrated into a range of commitments. In addition, in its resolution 34/20 on human rights and the environment, the Human Rights Council explicitly referenced the 10-year framework and the need to change consumption and production patterns to ensure human well-being.

Raising awareness on sustainable consumption and production

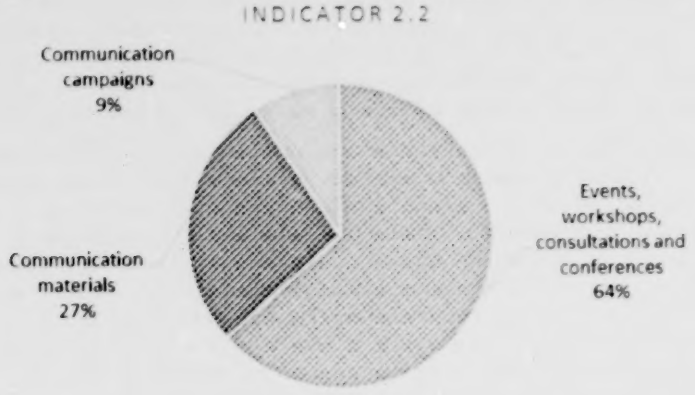
37. A network of more than 700 actors has the potential to reach a wide audience and a broad range of stakeholders in order to increase its scale and influence.

38. Various communication and outreach activities have been implemented by the programmes and their partner networks to increase awareness of the benefits and impacts of sustainable consumption and production in different sectors, and on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities. Since 2013, a total of 538 such activities have been implemented throughout the One Planet network, including knowledge-sharing workshops, conferences, side events, stakeholder dialogues and consultations and webinars, the distribution of communication materials, campaigns and newsletters and the establishment of social media presences.

[16] Available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/guidelines-providing-product-sustainability-information.

Figure VII
Awareness and outreach activities by the One Planet network, by type, 2012–2017

(393 activities)



39. Some 50 campaigns have been reported by the network. Examples include the "4 Billion Dreams Campaign",[17] supported by SWITCH Asia and funded by the European Commission, which showcases the stories of people in the Asia-Pacific region, their current lifestyles and their aspirations for the future. The personification of consumption patterns and efforts towards sustainable lifestyles contributes to the rapid transmission of sustainable practices in the everyday lives of middle-class consumers in Asia, leading to a reduction in consumerism, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste. Hundreds of people have participated in the campaign, which has been presented at various global conferences and has proven to be an effective means of communication regarding sustainable lifestyle progress and visions for the future.

40. Tackling target 12.3 of Sustainable Development Goal 12, on food loss and waste reduction, the "Think Eat Save" campaign,[18] which is a collaboration between UNEP and FAO, takes stock of the current state of knowledge and ongoing methodologies, shares approaches and promotes the reduction of food losses and waste. The campaign aims to strengthen the tools that have already been developed, address knowledge gaps, develop capacities and promote awareness and advocacy.

Collaborating for joint value creation and innovation

41. The pooling of resources and expertise across the One Planet network enables joint value creation, innovation and the implementation of initiatives at a greater scale. The Sustainable Food Systems programme has been active in the pooling of its members' resources and expertise through a collaborative engagement approach focused on core and affiliated initiatives. By the end of 2017, a total of eight core initiatives had been developed as principle projects of the programme, with the collaboration of partners in the programme network, across various themes and approaches, ranging from normative or knowledge-based initiatives to action-oriented projects supporting the shift to more sustainable food systems.

42. The *Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information* were developed through the Consumer Information programme and are an example of

[17] See http://4billiondreams.com/.

[18] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/delivering-sdg-target-123-food-loss-and-waste-reduction-core.

successful multi-stakeholder collaboration. Developed by a working group led by UNEP and the International Trade Centre, more than 140 stakeholders contributed through workshops, consultations and the drafting of content. The *Guidelines* provide guidance and examples for companies of all sizes and regions to make effective, trustworthy claims to consumers on product-related sustainability information. The lack of international guidance and agreement on how to convey consumer information was noted in global consultations as a key barrier to progress in that area. The *Guidelines* respond to that issue by providing a comprehensive set of high-level principles, from fundamental to aspirational, and guidance on how to apply them.

43. Collaborating with specialized networks mobilizes experts and practitioners to implement sustainable consumption and production. Such efforts to foster collaboration include the "SPP Regions — regional networks for sustainable procurement"[19] project led by Local Governments for Sustainability and UNEP. The project was developed collaboratively by partners of the Sustainable Public Procurement programme to facilitate learning and collaboration between the programme partners and 2,500 procurement practitioners and policymakers. Through eight regional networks across Europe, the production of tools, such as eco-innovation tender models and best practice reports on performance, circular procurement and market engagement, were developed. By engaging practitioners and policymakers, the project has enabled the reduction of an estimated 380,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year and created primary energy savings estimated at 54.3 gigawatt hours a year.

44. Several specialized networks are partners of the One Planet network, such as the World Green Building Council, the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council and Local Governments for Sustainability. Those networks further strengthen coordinated approaches and knowledge-sharing. For example, the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction have joined forces on 14 outreach and communication activities and two training sessions and have created four knowledge resource documents.

45. Collaboration between thematic programmes is facilitated by initiatives such as the "Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling Project"[20] of the Consumer Information and the Sustainable Public Procurement programmes, which is led by UNEP and funded by the European Union. The project aims to stimulate the demand for and supply of more sustainable products by supporting both public institutions in their pilot tenders and suppliers in the use of tools such as eco-labels.

46. Partnerships and collaborations are also developing through national and regional coordination mechanisms. At the national level, such mechanisms include national round tables, interministerial committees and national networks on sustainable consumption and production. Regional round tables and expert groups on sustainable consumption and production facilitate coordinated efforts to implement sustainable consumption and production practices across the regions, including the regional sustainable consumption and production round tables in Africa, Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East, the Asia-Pacific region and the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[19] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/spp-regions-regional-networks-sustainable-procurement.

[20] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sustainable-public-procurement-and-ecolabelling-sppel.

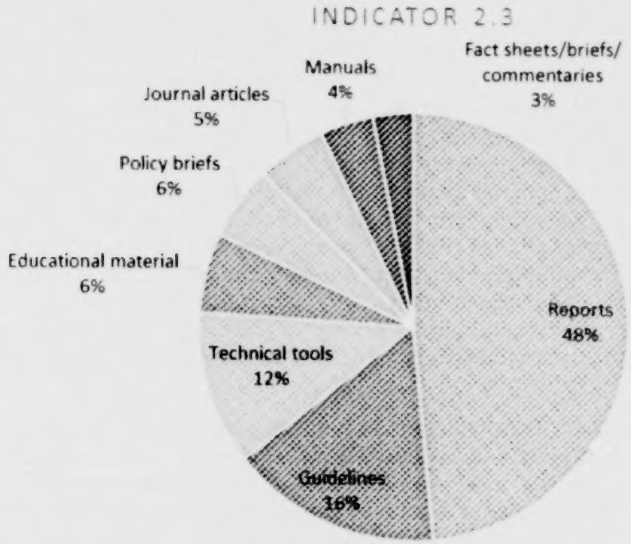
IV. The One Planet network: providing guidance, tools and solutions for sustainable consumption and production

47. Transformative action at scale requires knowledge, resources, tools and the technical and institutional capacity to act. The One Planet network provides support through the portfolios of the six programmes on food systems, buildings and construction, public procurement, tourism, lifestyles and education and consumer information. A partner-based portfolio approach was adopted to reduce fragmentation and provide key guidance and solutions for the shift to sustainable consumption and production.

48. The programme portfolios are housed publicly on the One Planet knowledge management platform (oneplanetnetwork.org), and are accessible directly through dedicated programme pages. The platform allows for programme partners and other stakeholders to share their projects, tools, resources and solutions to reach an audience of more than 3,900 members across countries, sectors and stakeholder groups.

49. Since 2012, a total of 396 knowledge resources and technical tools, such as research reports, educational material, policy briefs, technical guidelines, manuals, toolkits, mobile applications and online tools have been developed by partners of the One Planet network.

Figure VIII
Knowledge resources and technical tools developed by the One Planet network, 2012–2017



50. The annual magazines of the Sustainable Tourism programme, published by the World Tourism Organization and the Republic of Korea, *Setting the foundations for collective impact* (2015) and *Advancing towards a clear North* (2016/2017),[21] contain a series of interviews, case studies and reports from actions on the ground implemented by programme partners. They showcase the implementation of

[21] Available from http://sdt.unwto.org/annualmagazine-10yfp-stp.

sustainability initiatives and efforts to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in the tourism sector across the globe.

Policy implementation toolkits

51. A key role of the One Planet network is to support and provide advice with regard to the development of policies and to enable relevant, impactful and cost-effective implementation of sustainable consumption and production. A toolkit for national focal points of the 10-year framework[22] was published in 2017 that included essential information for policymakers on sustainable consumption and production related to key global challenges and provided tips to support national coordination and initiatives. The toolkit provides policymakers with concrete examples of successful initiatives, as well as information on how to actively engage in and benefit from the activities of the network.

52. Sectoral reviews are undertaken to increase understanding of current barriers, needs, opportunities and innovations. The 2017 Global Review of Sustainable Public Procurement,[23] funded by the European Union and the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute, is a review of sustainable public procurement policies and practices undertaken by national governments worldwide in the last five years, based on inputs from 41 national governments and 200 other stakeholders. It is complemented by the publication entitled "Factsheets on sustainable public procurement in national governments",[24] detailing policy frameworks, priorities and implementation activities for each of the participating countries.

53. The development and implementation of sectoral policies are also supported through toolkits and guidance on standards. For example, within the Sustainable Food Systems programme, the One Planet network offers the Global Policy Toolkit for Public Support to Organic Agriculture,[25] developed under the leadership of IFOAM Organics International. The toolkit supports policymakers in implementing organic production methods by providing guidelines, lessons learned and available policy instruments. The toolkit also includes an aid for decision-making to guide policymakers towards the most relevant policy measures, policy summaries, tips for organic advocates on raising political awareness and policy templates. The Sustainable Food Systems programme also provides recommendations to improve biodiversity protection in policy and criteria of food standards and sourcing requirements of food companies and retailers[26] through a collaboration led by Nestlé. The report supports standard-setting organizations and companies in the food sector with regard to choosing and implementing "state of the art" biodiversity impact evaluation tools. The recommendations of the report address the degradation and destruction of ecosystems, the overexploitation of natural resources and invasive alien species.

54. Within the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme, policy support was provided through a project on mainstreaming sustainable social housing in India,[27] funded by the 10-year framework trust fund and implemented by Oxford Brookes University, Development Alternatives Group, the Energy and Resources

[22] Available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/introduction-toolkit-10yfp-national-focal-points.

[23] Available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/2017-global-review-sustainable-public-procurement.

[24] Available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/factsheets-sustainable-public-procurement-national-governments.

[25] See www.ifoam.bio/en/global-policy-toolkit-public-support-organic-agriculture.

[26] See www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/recommendations-biodiversity-in-standards.

[27] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sbc-trust-fund-project-mas-ship-mainstreaming-sustainable-social-housing-india.

Institute and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The project includes support to policymakers and practitioners in the development of a social housing policy in India through policy and practice briefings on mechanisms for mainstreaming sustainability aspects in affordable urban housing at national and subnational levels.

Guidance for sustainable consumption and production practitioners

55. The One Planet network also offers guidance to sustainable consumption and production practitioners at national and global levels through guidelines and handbooks. Such reports are often thematic and specific in scope, including the training module entitled "Using product service systems in circular procurement",[28] developed by a working group of the Sustainable Public Procurement programme. The module examines the nexus between product-service systems and sustainable public procurement, drawing together international experience and demonstrating, through best practices, how governments can use product-service systems in the context of sustainable public procurement policies and initiatives, thereby contributing to a more resource-efficient, low-carbon and inclusive green economy.

56. Providing specific and tangible guidance on approaches to sustainable consumption and production, The Long View: Exploring Product Lifetime Extension[29] was developed by UNEP and TU Delft in the Consumer Information programme. It offers recommendations on the opportunities available to consumers, the private sector and governments of developed and developing economies to address ways to extend product lifetimes. Also within the Consumer Information programme, the report entitled "Collaboration or business? Collaborative consumption: from value for users to a society with values",[30] developed by the Organización de Consumidores y Usuarios, analyses the impact of the sharing economy on society, the economy and the environment, and provides recommendations on how collaborative consumption platforms can be improved.

57. As a partner of the Sustainable Tourism programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, builds the capacities of authorities of protected areas through the publication entitled "Guidelines for tourism partnerships and concessions for protected areas: generating sustainable revenues for conservation and development",[31] and supports them in their development and use of tourism partnerships and concessions to contribute financially and technically to protected areas through sustainable tourism.

58. The handbook *Destination: A Circular Tourism Economy*[32] was developed by the Sustainable Tourism programme partner Centre for Regional and Tourism Research in Denmark, within the framework of "CIRTOINNO" project funded by the European Union. It highlights opportunities for small and medium-sized tourism enterprises in the southern Baltic region and beyond to adopt circular economy practices and identifies good practices of the sector in developing and integrating circular economy solutions into services, products and business models. As the first publication directly linking tourism and the circular economy, the handbook aims to

[28] Available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/using-product-service-systems-circular-procurement.

[29] Available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/long-view-exploring-product-lifetime-extension.

[30] Available from www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/collaboration-or-business-collaborative-consumption-value-users-society-values.

[31] Available from www.cbd.int/doc/programmes/tourism/tourism-manual-en.pdf.

[32] Available from https://crt.dk/media/90318/Cirtoinno-handbook_CRT_05102017-002-.pdf.

trigger further action from tourism practitioners, experts and academia in line with the priorities of the One Planet network.

Technical tools

59. The network offer a range of technical tools, such as mobile applications and online systems, to support practitioners and consumers in shifting to more sustainable production and consumption patterns. An example of such a tool is a sustainable housing design tool, developed by UN-Habitat through the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme's trust fund project, called "SHERPA". The tool is free, easy to use and locally adaptable, and accessible through a mobile application and an online website (www.sherpa4housing.org), and was created to assist project managers, communities and other stakeholders in developing countries with designing socially and culturally responsive, climate-resilient, economically sustainable housing projects.

60. Targeting youth, MyFoodways[33] is a smartphone application that helps youth prepare and enjoy healthy and sustainable meals every day. Moving beyond pure awareness-raising to creating a solution that enables the target group to overcome practical day-to-day barriers and eat according to their values, the application uses each user's practical preferences and motivations to show relevant available products. Through collaborations with actors in the food sector interested in offering more-sustainable food products, the aim is to identify consumer trends and ensure that a lack of demand for or awareness of sustainable products does not create a barrier to more-sustainable consumption patterns.

61. The "Mi Codigo Verde"[34] project in Chile, a trust fund project under the Consumer Information programme, aims to change practices within the consumer goods industry by enabling informed consumer behaviour. As a key output of the project, Fundación Chile and Servicio Nacional del Consumido (SERNAC) developed a website to provide science-based, clear, comparable and complete information on the sustainability of fast-moving consumer goods. The website aims to empower consumers and enable them to make well-informed, sustainable decisions by incentivizing and guiding producers to improve the sustainability of their products, and to raise the standards of the Chilean consumer goods industry.

62. The Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme contributes to the development of technical tools to scale up impacts and best practices in order to achieve sustainable lifestyles. A project to monitor and evaluate sustainability impacts and the scalability of sustainable lifestyles developed a technical framework to assess the impacts and scalability of projects for sustainable societies, which incorporated quantitative and qualitative methods for assessing gaps, contexts, impacts and the scalability of projects to facilitate the scaling-up of innovative models. The "Upscale and Mainstream Green Office Lifestyles in Vietnam" project[35] led by the Asian Institute of Technology, a core project under the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme, has developed a toolkit for promoting sustainable practices in the office.

Training

63. Since 2013, 198 training sessions have been offered by partners of the One Planet network, providing a total of 919,260 person-days of training on sustainable consumption and production. The global, regional, national and local training sessions target practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders, providing them with knowledge, skills, tools and solutions. The sessions provide space for

[33] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/myfoodways-smartphone-app-helps-millennials-enjoy-healthy-and-sustainable-everyday-meals.

[34] See https://micodigoverde.cl/.

[35] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/upscale-and-mainstream-green-office-lifestyles-vietnam.

knowledge-sharing, enabling practitioners to effectively implement sustainable consumption and production practices within their respective fields.

64. To support policymakers, partners of the One Planet network have conducted a range of training sessions on the integration of sustainable consumption and production into policies, including the Ninth ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Development Goal 12, implemented by UNEP and SWITCH Asia, at which policymakers were trained in policy development and implementation so they could achieve key goals and targets related to sustainable consumption and production in the Sustainable Development Goals. An e-learning course, entitled "Sustainable consumption and production in Latin America and the Caribbean: approaches and practical tools", developed by UNEP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and made accessible to policymakers and other stakeholders online, provided participants with guidance and knowledge on a variety of key elements of effective policy planning for sustainable consumption and production, including enabling conditions for implementing national sustainable consumption and production policies, understanding challenges and opportunities for advancing sustainable consumption and production in national contexts and applying sustainable consumption and production in a policymaking context.

65. Partners of the Sustainable Public Procurement programme train public procurers in the integration of sustainability in procurement processes. At the global level, through a project on building sustainable procurement through training,[36] the United Nations Office for Project Services, UNEP and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization trained 225 United Nations procurement officials on balancing environmental, social and economic considerations using sustainability criteria. At the regional level, a series of workshops were offered from 2015 to 2017 as part of the European Commission's "European Assistance for Innovation Procurement" initiative.[37] Through the workshops, a total of 5,600 person-days of training were provided that trained public procurers of eight European countries on methodologies for deploying complex procurements that involve innovative solutions.

66. At the national and local levels, training sessions focus in particular on practical skills and capacity-building. For instance, as part of the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme's trust fund project "Sustainable Construction Policy in the Aburrá Valley, Colombia",[38] implemented by UN-Habitat and Área Metropolitana del Valle de Aburrá, construction professionals were trained on the use of sustainable construction guides in metropolitan areas. The resulting sustainable construction policy, which promotes eco-efficient and resilient construction activity, creates spaces that can accommodate high numbers of people while promoting ecological connectivity and biodiversity. The activity brought together 119 construction professionals over 14 days and increased their capacity to operationalize guides for practical use in the planning, design and construction of urban building projects.

67. Training sessions targeting lifestyle changes were provided under the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme, including through 16 projects funded by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. For example, training was provided to 9,351 farmers on sustainable farming and living, and adaptation to and mitigation practices for climate change as part of the "Sustainable lifestyles among rural families in Zimbabwe: small-scale conservation farming to change lifestyles in

[36] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/building-sustainable-procurement-capacity-through-training.

[37] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/european-assistance-innovation-procurement-eafip.

[38] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sbc-trust-fund-project-sustainable-construction-policy-aburra-valley-colombia.

Africa and beyond" project[39] implemented by Development Aid from People to People Zimbabwe and the Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) of Zimbabwe. In Sweden, the Stockholm Environment Institute and Berghs School of Communication collaborated on a course for students on ways businesses can encourage sustainable consumer lifestyles through sustainable business models.

68. Through the Consumer Information programme, UNEP and the Life Cycle Initiative have, in collaboration with national partners, trained practitioners and policymakers on the use of life-cycle analysis. In Peru, a training session was held for members of public institutions on the use of life-cycle analysis data in order to help policymakers make more-informed decisions and improve information for consumers. In Sri Lanka, a training-of-trainers programme was held for staff of the National Cleaner Production Centre and selected life-cycle analysis practitioners to increase capacities and develop a life-cycle inventory database for selected products in the agrifood sector.

69. In addition to in-person training, partners of the One Planet network also offer online solutions, such as the massive open online course entitled "Food and Our Future: Sustainable Food Systems in Southeast Asia",[40] developed by the International Resource Panel in partnership with the Sustainable Food Systems programme and the Stockholm Environment Institute. The course provides policymakers and practitioners with the latest scientific information to increase the awareness and understanding of the value of using a food-systems approach for improved management of natural resources in South-East Asia; the complex dynamics within food system activities, actors and outcomes in South-East Asia and their implications for natural resource use; and the policy and biophysical options in the region for moving towards more resource-smart food systems.

V. Adoption of new or improved practices

70. Shifting to sustainable consumption and production requires changing existing practices and adopting new processes, technologies, systems, guidelines and standards. Changes in practices directly result in concrete, tangible and measurable sustainability impacts. Identifying and promoting successful changes in practices for sustainable consumption and production is key to supporting policy implementation, and offers entry points to measure impact and advocate for the replication and scaling-up of changes.

Improved processes and systems

71. Changing procurement practices is a cost-effective approach to limiting the impact on the environment and tackling sustainability in the supply chain. Circularity was implemented in 100 procurement processes across more than 50 organizations in the Netherlands as part of the "Green Deal Circular Procurement" project,[41] led by a group of four organizations from the Netherlands (Rijkswaterstaat, CSR Netherlands, Pianoo and NEVI) that are partners of the Sustainable Public Procurement programme. Changes included the selling of discarded products for reuse and refurbishment; contracts that included high-quality remanufactured products or refurbishment as a service; modularity and flexibility in buildings; the inclusion of recycled content in

[39] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sustainable-lifestyles-among-rural-families-zimbabwe-small-scale-conservation-farming-0.

[40] See www.ctc-n.org/news/massive-open-online-course-food-and-our-future-sustainable-food-systems-southeast-asia.

[41] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/green-deal-circular-procurement.

items such as textiles; new design principles in construction works; and the redesign of products and new circular services models for life extension.

72. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute and the Korean Public Procurement Service, introduced several public procurement initiatives, including the development of green public procurement guidelines, the introduction of the "Korea Eco-label", the establishment of a green products information platform for purchasers and a nationwide online monitoring system. State organizations are required to submit a yearly implementation plan on green purchases and annual performance records to stimulate public demand and a green market. As a result of the green public procurement initiatives implemented, the total public expenditure in green purchases increased from $768 million to $2.1 billion from 2005 to 2015. In addition, the number of products certified by the Korea Eco-Label nearly quadrupled from 2004 to 2012.

73. Through its "Building Energy Performance Improvement Toolkit (BEPIT)",[42] Bioregional, a partner of the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme, is supporting developers with regard to maximizing energy performance in more than 300 dwellings through workshops, meetings and site inspections during the design, procurement and construction stages. With 71 dwellings completed or nearing completion, initial test results show a performance improvement of around 10 to 25 per cent in heating energy and 40 per cent in the airtightness of the buildings.

New or improved technologies

74. The Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme partner Society for Sustainable Development Design implemented small energy-efficiency measures in households at risk for energy poverty, changing the way in which energy was being consumed in order to make energy use more sustainable and energy more accessible to consumers in Croatia. Measures implemented included the installation of light emitting diode (LED) lighting, thermometers, aerators for saving water and time switches on electric boilers and electric cables, and draught proofing. Changes were implemented by more than 400 households and resulted in reductions in energy use and carbon dioxide emissions and financial savings for the households. Such changes proved to be an easy-to-implement and cost-effective approach to lowering household consumption.

75. An example of cost-effective transitions to sustainable consumption and production in tourism is the support provided by Federación de Empresas de Turismo de Chile (FEDETUR), a partner of the Sustainable Tourism programme, to 165 tourism companies in Chile regarding the implementation of cost-effective technological solutions that help reduce energy consumption and carbon footprints. So far, 39 companies have made one to three changes to their existing practices, including switching to renewable energy and LED lighting, introducing water and energy efficiency measures and waste management solutions and improving insulation in buildings.

Labelling schemes, certifications and standards

76. Labelling schemes, certifications and standards are effective ways of incentivizing and implementing changes in practices. For instance, through the UNEP-led "Advance SCP" project,[43] part of the Consumer Information programme

[42] See www.bioregional.com/bepit/.

[43] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/advance-scp-advancing-and-measuring-sustainable-consumption-and-production-scp-low-carbon.

portfolio, 10 hotels in Morocco committed to reducing their environmental footprint in order to obtain an environmental footprint label. The hotels have implemented changes such as installing drain-water heat recovery systems and solar panels, using large packaging rather than smaller individual packaging, using natural care products, removing halogen lamps and replacing them with LED tubes and more. The changes implemented by the hotels have so far resulted in a 20 per cent reduction in water consumption onsite, a 22 per cent reduction in energy consumption, a 17 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and a 30 per cent rise in the use of products that are environmentally friendly certified organic.

77. The criteria developed by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council,[44] a partner of the Sustainable Tourism programme, serve as the global baseline for sustainability in travel and tourism. They are used for education and awareness-raising, policymaking, measurement and evaluation and as a basis for certification. The criteria aim to effectively change practices, taking into consideration four main areas of sustainability: sustainable management; socioeconomic impacts; cultural impacts; and environmental impacts, including the consumption of resources, the reduction of pollution and the conservation of biodiversity and landscapes. As they are implemented in both industry and tourism destinations, the criteria are designed to be adapted to local conditions and specific activities. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council has developed associated standards and tools to help measure sustainability in order to support governments and businesses in meeting the criteria.

78. In Morocco, the Sustainable Tourism programme partner Elementerre has supported seven accommodation businesses in switching to sustainable tourism practices according to their specific needs, through the test phase of the "greenadviser criteria system".[45] To obtain the associated label, businesses are required to implement 13 mandatory criteria covering decent jobs, energy accounting, the training of personnel, local procurement and communication on sustainability, as well as other voluntary changes related to ecological footprints, human resource management, interaction with guests and impact on the local communities.

Fostering change through education practices

79. From 2015 to 2017, 33 countries (Europe and Central Asia (13), the Asia-Pacific region (11), Latin America and the Caribbean (6), Africa (2) and North America (1)) integrated sustainable consumption and production into pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational and teacher education. Information on learning methodologies, learning and pedagogical materials and teaching toolkits were provided, and lectures and professional seminars on sustainable consumption and production were delivered.

80. In Brazil, the "Education for Sustainability and Consumption" project[46] implemented by Alana Institute, a core project under the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme, promotes formal education for sustainable lifestyles. It has produced educational materials on responsible consumption, designed teaching practices and trained more than 2,500 teachers and their trainers in 500 schools across five national regions. In Honduras, the Honduras National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES), a partner of the Consumer Information programme, together with representatives of the Directorate of Consumer Protection under the Federal Ministry of Economic Development, visited schools to raise awareness of sustainable consumption and production among potential consumers.

[44] See www.gstcouncil.org/gstc-criteria/.

[45] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/introduction-label-sustainable-tourism-adapted-particularities-morocco.

[46] See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/education-sustainability-and-consumption.

81. In the Asia-Pacific region, under the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme, RMIT University led the integration of sustainable consumption and production into tertiary and teacher education, including through formal education for part-time students working towards their construction management degree in Singapore, and through a symposium on sustainable development research in the Asia-Pacific region that provided professional instruction for the tertiary teaching staff that focused on sustainable buildings, cities and infrastructure. Also in the Asia-Pacific region, UNEP and SWITCH Asia developed a curriculum for tertiary education at the National University of Laos to increase the capacity of stakeholders to deliver sustainable consumption and production policies at the national level.

VI. Means to implement the shift to sustainable consumption and production: resources that count

82. The 10-year framework trust fund was established in 2012 as a means to implement the 10-year framework. A total of 37 projects have been selected through a competitive call for proposals covering the six thematic programmes.[47] The projects are being implemented in Africa (8), the Asia-Pacific region (13), Latin America and the Caribbean (12), Europe and Central Asia (1) and globally (3).[48] Despite their different stages of implementation, the projects already showcase achievements and share practices on sustainable consumption and production, in particular by creating resources and tools, conducting capacity-building, facilitating policy development and implementation and implementing new or improved practices. The large number of proposals received also indicated a high demand for funding initiatives for sustainable consumption and production, which at that stage could not be met by the available resources in the trust fund; funding was possible for only 2.8 per cent of the proposals received.

83. Partners of the One Planet network contribute to making financial resources available for the shift to sustainable consumption and production, as they are currently implementing 121 projects with a total value of approximately $148 million, primarily within the areas of sustainable tourism (56 per cent) and sustainable public procurement (24 per cent).[49]

84. The independent external review identified the 10-year framework as dramatically resource-constrained and called for Member States and others in a position to do so to mobilize contributions to the 10-year framework trust fund as a means of implementation of sustainable consumption and production and Sustainable Development Goal 12, as well as for an in-depth and comprehensive review of the trust fund.

85. Though Sustainable Development Goal 12 is recognized through global agendas, according to a report by Dalberg Global Development Advisers in 2017, Goal 12 was the "least well-resourced" of all the Sustainable Development Goals, and was allocated only $90 million in 2016 through the United Nations. The report highlighted sustainable consumption and production as areas where new norms and

[47] See http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/annex_ii_trust_fund_projects.pdf for a full list of the selected trust fund projects.

[48] Detailed information on the selected trust fund projects can be found on oneplanetnetwork.org.

[49] A total of 198 projects were reported. Budgets for 121 projects were reported, but 77 projects did not provide budget information.

standards were likely to emerge in the coming years, and emphasized that fact as an opportunity for the United Nations system.[50]

86. The Secretary-General, in his report entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet" (A/72/684-E/2018/7), highlighted the need to financially incentivize collective support to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General recommended the strategic use of multi-partner trust funds to help catalyse support for the Sustainable Development Goals that are especially transversal in nature, including Goal 12, as a way to streamline implementation of the Goals and decrease the resource gap. With regard to financing the United Nations development system, the Secretary-General indicated that well-designed and professionally managed pooled funds were more effective and transparent and complemented agency-specific funds, and that pooled funding mechanisms had a strong track record in strengthening coherence and coordination, broadening the contributor base, improving risk management and leverage and providing better incentives for collaboration within the United Nations development system or across pillars in relevant contexts.

87. Availability of, and access to, financial resources to support actions that are transformational and at scale is a key factor in successful implementation. The private sector, public sector and financial institutions play an important role in unlocking financial flows and are encouraged to support implementation of the strategy, including through contributions to the trust fund.

VII. Way forward

Taking stock at midterm

88. The comprehensive stocktaking at the halfway point of the 10-year framework, undertaken through the progress reporting for the period 2012–2017 and an independent external review, has highlighted a number of achievements and opportunities to build upon and challenges to be addressed over the next five years.

89. The One Planet network, which was formed to implement the 10-year framework, is a multi-stakeholder partnership composed of more than 700 organizations, including national and local governments, civil society, businesses, scientific and technical organizations and international organizations. It is an operational partnership that has the potential to be transformational and through which efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 12 can be strategically channelled. Strengthening existing partnerships which have made significant investments in the initial phases of development is critical to the ambitious time frame for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

90. The definitions contained in "Indicators of success: demonstrating the shift to sustainable consumption and production" and the engagement of the One Planet network in the reporting efforts have provided an overview of current efforts, approaches and solutions for sustainable consumption and production. Monitoring of the shift to sustainable consumption and production across sectors, organizations and countries is essential in order to identify emerging trends and strategic gaps, demonstrate and showcase the benefits of sustainable consumption and production to

[50] Dalberg Global Development Advisers, "System-wide outline of the functions and capacities of the UN development system: consultants report", June 2017. Available from www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/qcpr/sg-report-dalberg_unds-outline-of-functions-and-capacities-june-2017.pdf.

build greater momentum for change and scale up and replicate innovative and impactful practices.

91. Reporting across the One Planet network identified progress on the development of policies, knowledge resources and technical tools, whereas the application and implementation of those policies, resources and tools to foster concrete and tangible changes in practices and impacts remained limited. Prioritizing support to policy implementation is necessary to effectively achieve the shift to sustainable consumption and production and Sustainable Development Goal 12.

92. The pilot reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1 further confirms that need, clearly showing that, for the past 15 years, national policies and instruments promoting the shift to sustainable consumption and production have been increasing in all regions. It also shows that the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production objectives into cross-cutting policies at the national level leads to slightly better performance results compared with stand-alone national policies in terms of domestic investments, inclusiveness and monitoring.

93. The One Planet network offers concrete solutions and tools to governments, organizations and other stakeholders for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable consumption and production. The 1,800 activities implemented by the partners include solutions such as policy toolkits, guidelines and manuals for practitioners, technical tools, training sessions, monitoring instruments and examples of successful policies and practices. Through those solutions, the One Planet network can effectively support policy implementation.

94. The adoption of new or improved practices that offer tangible solutions for the shift to sustainable consumption and production has been led primarily by business organizations in the network. A strengthened engagement of businesses would enable the identification of further such innovations and solutions.

95. As an implementation mechanism of Sustainable Development Goal 12, the solutions and initiatives of the thematic programmes need to be conducive to taking action on sustainable consumption and production at the national level. Ensuring the coordination of country-level initiatives and efforts on sustainable consumption and production is key to delivering Sustainable Development Goal 12 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

96. Achieving sustainable consumption and production will deliver not only Sustainable Development Goal 12, but will simultaneously contribute significantly to the achievement of almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals, directly or indirectly. In addition, sustainable consumption and production helps address key environmental and social challenges, such as poverty alleviation, pollution, climate change, health and biodiversity. Prioritizing the implementation of Goal 12 and scaling up action on sustainable consumption and production will enable the integrated delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

97. The importance of communications and awareness-raising is well understood by the network, as they were the most reported activities across the network; however, communication campaigns only accounted for 9 per cent of those activities. Demonstrating the benefits of sustainable consumption and production through strengthened and strategic communications efforts is key to demystifying sustainable consumption and production, positioning it as an integrated approach to sustainable development and mobilizing the necessary political support for the shift to sustainable consumption and production.

98. Availability of, and access to, financial resources to support actions that are transformational and at scale is a key factor in successful implementation. Sustainable Development Goal 12 has been highlighted as the least well-resourced Sustainable

Development Goal and the 10-year framework has been identified as dramatically resource-constrained. The envisaged use of a multi-partner trust fund provides a strategic entry point for channelling financial resources to catalyse and support the delivery of Goal 12 as the transversal Goal it is.

Strategy, 2018–2022

99. Building on the achievements to date and the comprehensive stocktaking at midterm, a five-year strategy for the period 2018–2022 has been developed by a dedicated task force and consultations throughout the network, providing a clear way forward with regard to the shift to sustainable consumption and production and enabling the strategic use of the diverse strengths of the network.

100. The five-year strategy for 2018–2022, entitled "One Plan for One Planet", defines a common vision and outlines common objectives, strategic principles and approaches across the One Planet network. The strategy aims for the One Planet network to be recognized and perform as the lead mechanism to support and implement the shift to sustainable consumption and production, which entails:

(a) Being an effective implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12 by monitoring trends, prioritizing support to national policy implementation and fostering awareness of sustainable consumption and production as an enabler of other Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Catalysing ambitious action by providing tools and solutions that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production fostering the application of knowledge and tools, identifying and replicating new or improved practices with net positive impact and engaging in joint value creation;

(c) Leading a cohesive implementation of sustainable consumption and production by being an authoritative voice on the current state of knowledge on sustainable consumption and production, setting the agenda and influencing national and international action;

(d) Demonstrating the impacts of sustainable consumption and production and its role in addressing key environmental and social challenges by building on science-based evidence and contributing to measuring and quantifying its multiple benefits and impacts.

101. The strategy is designed to enable the One Planet network to deliver its longer-term vision for consumption and production patterns that are resource-efficient and generate economic growth, environmental benefits and human well-being.

102. The network will use the diverse strengths of its partner base, which embraces governments, civil society, businesses, scientific institutions and international organizations. Chief among those strengths is the commitment of each actor in the One Planet network to take tangible and substantial action on sustainable consumption and production, and to encourage and enable others to do so.

United Nations E/2018/61

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2018

Original: English

2018 session
27 July 2017–26 July 2018
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Sustainable and resilient societies are fundamental for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Building sustainable and resilient societies is central to eliminating poverty, augmenting shared prosperity and leaving no one behind; it must be pursued by focusing on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated manner.

To inform the Economic and Social Council's consideration of the main theme at its 2018 session, in the present report, current challenges and opportunities for advancing sustainability and resilience at the local level in urban and rural communities are analysed and actions being taken in support of sustainable and resilient societies by local actors, as well as by stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, are examined. A set of key elements have emerged as priorities for building sustainability and resilience, namely, local ownership and capacities, foresight and risk planning, policy integration, and inclusion.

18-07288 (E) 140518

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. Strengthening the sustainability and resilience of societies in all countries is a core commitment embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the face of increasingly complex development challenges at the global, regional, national and local levels, the ability of societies to prevent and respond effectively to change will be essential for making progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Urban and rural communities are at the front line of implementing the 2030 Agenda, and overcoming obstacles at the local level is a fundamental and urgent requirement.

2. Economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters pose immense obstacles to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Megatrends, such as climate change and rapid technological change, have the potential to severely disrupt economies and societies everywhere, and the effects of a wide range of potentially smaller shocks, such as natural hazards, disease outbreaks and economic volatility, can rapidly escalate across borders.

3. Sudden, acute shocks not only pose immediate hardships within societies but often exacerbate underlying, systemic challenges to sustainable development and develop into protracted crises. Such shocks test and weaken national and local institutions and disproportionately burden the poorest members of populations. Indeed, crises, shocks and disasters not only deepen the experience of poverty and suffering among the poor, but also push those just above the poverty threshold back into poverty. Such events can result in a significant reversal of hard won development gains, even in countries at advanced stages of development.

4. Building capacities at the national and local levels in the areas of prevention and recovery supports sustainable and resilient societies. Countries must develop the ability to address and manage risk, bolster institutions and plans for effective response and recovery and strengthen the transition to stable development in the aftermath of crises. Such support must be built on inclusive approaches that advance efforts to leave no one behind.

5. Owing to the differentiated impact of crises on local communities, local governments are often the first to respond to such events. As a result, building capacities at the local level, among urban and rural communities, is critical to ensuring that no one falls behind in sustainable development efforts. Local communities are in the best position for understanding the collective and group needs, challenges and capacities; they are repositories of local knowledge and key partners in shaping policies to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

6. The present report was prepared in support of the main theme of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council, namely, "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities" (see General Assembly resolution 68/1 and Council decision 2017/208).[1] It contains information on current challenges and opportunities in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially at the local level, and analyses of the role of sustainability and resilience across actions taken in the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

7. In the present report, resilience is considered as a multifaceted concept, and selected key trends driving risk and vulnerability are highlighted. It combines analytical contributions submitted through the Economic and Social Council and from the United Nations development system with inputs from stakeholders gleaned in the

[1] The theme of the 2018 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

context of their engagement in the annual session of the Council, which culminates with the adoption of a ministerial declaration at the high-level segment. The report should be read in conjunction with the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on leveraging new technologies and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies.

II. Global commitments and approaches to building resilience and reducing risk

8. Resilience is reflected in a range of targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, both explicitly and implicitly. Target 1.5 is the core resilience target, aiming at building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. Resilience is also a central feature of target 13.1, aiming at strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. Resilience further underpins several other Goals and targets, including ones pertaining to hunger, infrastructure and urbanization.

9. Other major global agreements made in 2015 and 2016 also have resilience as a central component. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 laid the groundwork for the inclusion of the matters of risk awareness and resilience in the 2030 Agenda. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda built a framework for mobilizing resources for sustainable development and improved preparedness in the face of risks, and the Paris Agreement on climate change aggregated commitments to reduce climate vulnerability through adaptation. The Agenda for Humanity and the New Urban Agenda reinforced Member States commitment to addressing multiple risks and building sustainable and resilient societies, with particular focus on the role of local communities and local capacities. Each agreement takes note the specific challenges faced by the most vulnerable countries.

10. Building resilience will require action that spans the development, humanitarian, peace and security, climate and disaster risk reduction fields. In support of wider efforts towards peace and prosperity, improved coordination will be needed to avoid duplication, maximize gains and manage trade-offs between different risks and development objectives across the various agreements, including approaches that address underlying risk drivers common to the development and humanitarian agendas, inconsistencies between development and humanitarian donor and financing systems and the weak integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts into wider development planning.

11. The United Nations has recently developed a common shared understanding of resilience as an objective across its pillars of work. Historically, the concept of resilience has been used in different ways by different expert communities in the United Nations system. In countries' pursuit of an integrated sustainable development agenda, concerns about the security and stability of development gains has given rise to a renewed interest in resilience and its applicability across a wide range of crises. Recognizing the centrality of resilience in the work of the United Nations in various areas, and considering risk and resilience through a sustainable development lens, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination recently endorsed an analytical framework on risk and resilience (see CEB/2017/6, annex III) to ensure more proactive, coordinated and effective United Nations action. The analytical framework rests on four broad principles: (a) risk and resilience are central concepts for addressing crises more proactively; (b) a risk and resilience approach should reflect the reality that risks are interrelated, complex and must be understood across

different levels of impact; (c) risk and resilience are important common threads across the United Nations pillars, which could promote coherence; and (d) core concepts should be harmonized, including a common definition and understanding of resilience as the ability of individuals, households, communities, cities, institutions, systems and societies to prevent, resist, absorb, adapt, respond and recover positively, efficiently and effectively when faced with a wide range of risks, while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning and without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and well-being for all.

12. The analytical framework will be operationalized at the country level by the United Nations Development Group. It is potentially applicable to a wide range of system-wide efforts to address challenges, such as climate change, and to enhance cooperation and complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace.

III. Drivers of risk in urban and rural communities

13. Consistent with the above framework, selected key drivers of risk in urban and rural communities are identified below. The risks identified are not exhaustive, but focus on selected areas of significant impact at the local level and are relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals that are to be reviewed in depth in 2018.[2]

A. Climate change

14. The effects of climate change will continue to pose significant risks of disruption to economies and the lives of billions of people in the years ahead. The years 2015, 2016 and 2017 were confirmed as the three warmest years on record, and climate-related impacts on development are already being observed in many countries. Such risks to ecosystems, economies and human well-being will continue to increase along with increases in the magnitude of warming.

15. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and increasingly devastating. The very active North Atlantic hurricane season, major monsoon-related flooding in the Indian subcontinent and continuing severe drought in parts of eastern Africa contributed to 2017 being the year with the highest costs to date relating to severe weather and climate events.[3] In addition to their human toll, annual economic losses from earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and flooding have been estimated at $300 billion globally; considering the catastrophic Atlantic hurricane season in 2017, that figure is likely to have been exceeded in 2018. For small island developing States, the average annual losses owing to disasters is equivalent to almost 20 per cent of total social expenditure.

16. In addition, extreme droughts have exacerbated hardship and social unrest at the local level, in particular in arid and semi-arid regions where water scarcity and increasing pressure on natural resources are the norm. More than 60 per cent of humanity currently lives in areas of water stress, where water supply cannot meet demand, which could worsen if water resources are not better managed.[4]

17. The problems of acute food insecurity and malnutrition are compounded by natural hazards, such as droughts, floods and increasing extreme weather events. They

[2] Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15. Goal 17 is reviewed annually.

[3] World Meteorological Organization, *WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2017* (Geneva, 2018).

[4] WaterAid, *The Water Gap: the State of the World's Water 2018* (March 2018).

are likely to increase with climate change, threatening food and nutrition security and creating many subsequent challenges for urban and rural populations Rural and food-insecure populations in particular are disproportionately affected, jeopardizing production, distribution and livelihoods and, in some cases, driving competition over scarce resources.

18. Climate change also has an impact on the forced or involuntary migration of people. At present, most environment and climate-related migration is believed to take place over relatively short distances and usually does not involve cross-border movements. Whereas many such migrants are able to return to their homes within a relatively short time period, for some, their situations may become protracted or they may require permanent relocation.

B. Poverty and inequality

19. Notwithstanding the vast progress made, evidence shows that the risk of poverty worldwide still poses a threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal target to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Current estimates based on projections for consumption growth and population growth suggest that there may be around 650 million people living in extreme poverty in 2030.[5] Estimates show that 78 per cent of the extremely poor were living in rural environments as of 2010.[6]

20. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth is essential for poverty eradication and requires coherent action at the national, regional and global levels, in the increasingly interconnected global economy. The steady revitalization of the global economy since the global economic and financial crisis of 2008–2009 is welcome, however, progress has not been uniform and vulnerabilities persist. Outside of developed countries and large emerging economies, much of the world has yet to achieve or return to a healthy growth rate.

21. According to the International Labour Organization, global unemployment levels and rates are expected to remain high in the short term, at around 5.8 per cent in 2017, or slightly more than 201 million people. Employment creation remains stagnant in many countries since the reshaped jobs landscape following the 2008–2009 global financial crisis. Recovering all the jobs lost during that period remains a challenge, which is further compounded by population growth and job losses stemming from rapid technological change in many industries.

22. Job creation alone is insufficient; it is also essential that job quality be addressed. The global labour market has seen only weak progress in addressing the risk of "working poverty", or living under the poverty line despite employment. Almost 780 million people are working but not earning enough to lift themselves and their families above a $2 per day threshold, and large disparities persist across groups, including for women and young people (see E/CN.5/2018/3).

23. The risk of poverty is exacerbated by the dominant trends in rising inequalities. Even where poverty has been reduced, pervasive inequalities remain, hindering poverty eradication and increasing polarization within societies. Apart from issues of equity and fairness, growing inequality is detrimental to efforts to expand opportunities and enable social mobility, with a view to promoting economic growth. Furthermore, inequalities undermine social cohesion and can increase political and social tensions within countries, sometimes raising the risk of instability or conflict.

[5] *World Economic Situation and Prospects* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.II.C.2).

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The future of food and agriculture: trends and challenges* (Rome, 2017).

Among other consequences, the resulting risk levels and systemic vulnerability can discourage investment and have a negative impact on growth.

24. There remains concern regarding the share of income and wealth controlled by the richest, and the risk of growing inequality because the benefits of rapid technological change accrue disproportionately to the rich. The nature of work is undergoing a transformation, as technological advances in such areas as artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, nanotechnology, 3D printing, genetics, biotechnology and smart systems are becoming increasingly interconnected, building on and amplifying one another. Their transformative, yet disruptive, powers have the potential to yield significant benefits, as well as multiple challenges, spanning the ethical, technical and socioeconomic spheres.

25. For instance, artificial intelligence presents immense potential for transforming production and consumption patterns and reshaping social, economic and cultural interactions. It can increase and complement human capacities. Artificial intelligence algorithms increasingly inform and facilitate decision-making in both the private and public sectors, such as in hiring and in providing credit and social services, including child protection services, and in criminal justice systems. In agriculture, a drone made with a 3D printer and powered with artificial intelligence may soon be capable of spraying an "intelligent" quantity of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, by taking into account potential weather patterns and nutrient and moisture levels in the soil. However, artificial intelligence has the potential to render many jobs, even professions, obsolete, increasing unemployment and wage and income inequality. There are also significant ethical concerns about artificial intelligence-based decision-making, as it may lead to entrenched biases and undermine accountability.

C. Poorly managed urbanization

26. As of 2018, 55 per cent of all people live in cities, and, by 2030, the share of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to reach 60 per cent. The number, and in many cases also the size, of cities has increased considerably in recent decades. Megacities, those with 10 million or more inhabitants, of which there were only 10 in 1990, currently number 33, and there could be 41 by 2030.

27. Although rapid urbanization holds the potential to transform cities into unique hubs for services, sustainability and better social and economic opportunities, if not adequately managed, it can also generate environmental stress, inequalities and new forms of vulnerability and exclusion. Unplanned or inadequately managed urban expansion can impair sustainability, through the resulting urban sprawl, pollution and environmental degradation. It can also lead to unsustainable energy consumption. Currently, urban areas account for 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and waste and 70 per cent of global gross domestic product; cities make up 60 per cent of global energy consumption.

28. The pace of environmental degradation is accelerating both the frequency and intensity of natural hazards and exponentially increasing the vulnerability of urban areas owing to the resulting social, economic and physical disturbances and significant population displacement. The World Bank has predicted that, by 2050, the urban population exposed to cyclones will increase from 310 million to 680 million people and those exposed to major earthquake risk will increase from 370 million to 870 million people.[7]

[7] World Bank, *Building resilience: integrating climate and disaster risk into development* (Washington, D.C., 2013).

29. Estimates suggest that $6 trillion a year will be invested globally in infrastructure by 2030, however, almost 7 per cent of this, or $415 billion, will be lost to disasters annually.[8] With 60 per cent of what will be urban in 2030 having yet to be built, urban growth presents an unparalleled opportunity to reduce the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters.[9]

D. Environmental degradation

30. Unsustainable resource use undermines resilience. Current patterns of consumption and production are unsustainable, and the growing demand for resource-intensive goods and services could increase with the growing global middle class. The Earth's resources are being used faster than many ecosystems can replenish them, and biodiversity loss is accelerating. A significant proportion of managed and natural ecosystems are degrading; over the past two decades, approximately 20 per cent of the Earth's vegetated surface has shown declining trends in productivity owing primarily to the misuse and mismanagement of land and water resources.[10] Such degradation drives down the long-term health and productivity of ecological resources, with the potential to result in their depletion.

31. Soil erosion, desertification and water scarcity all contribute to hardship and stress among societies, in particular in rural communities. Over 1.3 billion people are trapped on degrading agricultural land; farmers on marginal lands have limited options for alternative livelihoods and are often excluded from wider infrastructure and economic development. In that regard, land degradation could be considered a threat amplifier, especially when it slowly reduces ability to use the land for food production and water storage or undermines other vital ecosystem services, which in turn increases human vulnerability to various risks.

32. The world's oceans are under stress from human activity, with a complex mix of environmental, social and economic impacts. Overfishing and other extractive activities, coastal development, pollution and tourism are damaging essential natural habitats and reducing the population of marine species at an alarming rate, which is compounded by climate change and the effects of warmer temperatures and acidification of ocean water.

IV. Actions and tools for building sustainable and resilient societies at the local level

33. Policies and actions at the global, regional, national and local levels can support sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities. Critical areas for implementing the 2030 Agenda on the ground, especially those elements that reduce and manage risk and invest in resilience, are highlighted below.

[8] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Reducing disaster risk in urban settings", issue brief (2015).

[9] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015* (Geneva, 2015).

[10] Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, *Global Land Outlook* (Bonn, Germany, 2017).

A. Sustainable and resilient livelihoods

34. A wide range of research has shown that employment and unemployment plays a role in prompting the exit and entry, respectively, into poverty, with implications for risk exposure. Addressing that fundamental development challenge requires broad-based growth and multisectoral, integrated solutions for the provision of adequate employment and income for women and men, and addressing structural barriers to economic empowerment.

35. Sustainable livelihoods rely on jobs that are of high quality and have good conditions of employment. It is important for gender equality, sustainable development and inclusion that job holders have equal pay for work of equal value, fair living wages, work environments free of violence and harassment, access to social protection and prospects for personal and social development. Women specifically face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in access to and participation in labour markets.

36. The demographic transition from a young and old population within a country is also an important area for the attention of policymakers. An initial rise in the share of persons at working ages, known as a "demographic dividend", creates a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth and sustainable development. Many countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa and the least developed countries, have the possibility of reaping the benefits of that phenomenon in the coming decades, if they invest in child and youth development, specifically in terms of policies that support a healthy and educated population, provide decent jobs for those of working age and create conditions conducive to investment and growth. Such a focus can also improve social cohesion and intergenerational solidarity, with stabilizing effects in post-conflict countries.

37. Guaranteeing universal access to basic social services and additional and more direct interventions, such as social protection and increasing access to assets, are important ways of building resilience, especially for the working poor. Universal social policies are dually effective in reducing the vulnerability of those experiencing poverty, unemployment or poor health and supporting those that may need help because of an unexpected life event, which becomes especially important in response to large-scale disruptive shocks or crises that can affect individuals and households that are typically stable.

38. Social protection systems mitigate risks and protect people from falling into poverty. According to one estimate, the number of people living in extreme poverty would be between 136 million and 165 million people higher without social protection transfers. Such protection helps manage trade-offs between immediate needs and future livelihoods, and builds resilience by supporting capital accumulation and investment. Social protection programmes have been shown to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, when targeting children's access to health and education. Social protection can also boost resilience throughout economic cycles, and during economic downturns, social protection spending can stimulate growth and employment.

39. The most effective programmes address work opportunities and social protection in an integrated manner. In India, many people who are unemployed, including migrant workers who earn their income through casual jobs, have found a safety net in the programmes instituted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which have reached hundreds of millions of people who were traditionally sidelined from local labour markets and social protection schemes, in particular women, members of disadvantaged castes and tribes and people in rural areas. It has helped to slow the rate of rural-urban migration and, in some cases, to reverse it.

B. Access to water and sanitation

40. Safe, secure and clean water and sanitation infrastructure and services are particularly important for poverty eradication, the reduction of inequalities and building sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities. Such infrastructure is integral to making progress in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and requires the implementation of target 6.b on supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

41. Sustainable water management is also critical for addressing disaster vulnerability and strengthening the resilience of communities to water-related hazards, including floods, droughts, hurricanes, storm surges and landslides, which account for approximately 90 per cent of disaster events worldwide. Population growth in areas prone to flooding and increased agricultural development on marginal lands is further increasing exposure and vulnerability to such risks. Robust and sustainable management of water resources and strengthening efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction strategies into water management will significantly contribute to reducing the impacts of water-related hazards.

42. Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation is usually a responsibility of local governments, and access is therefore dependent upon effective local governance, natural resource management and urban planning. In urban areas, the main challenge is often lack of access to basic services in informal settlements or high prices and a lack of quality control over water from private vendors. In rural areas, water may be free, but gaining access to it may involve long journeys to and from the source, which may be contaminated. Local governments have a role to play in improving water quality through environmental protection measures and sustainable solid waste management. Integrated water resources management requires horizontal cooperation in planning and environmental policy across municipal, regional and international borders. Local governments are ideally placed to include communities in the management of water and sanitation services.

43. Experience has shown the effectiveness of local communities embedding integrated water resources management and risk-mitigating infrastructure into new and existing construction projects. Examples include restored urban green areas, wetlands and waste-stabilization ponds in Kolkata, India, water-efficient buildings in the Republic of Korea, vertical farming, inside multistorey buildings across various countries, which has shown great potential to contribute to food security, and rainwater catchment systems, such as those in Kiribati.[11]

C. Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

44. Access to sustainable energy is a prerequisite for poverty eradication and building the sustainability and resilience of communities, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Access to clean and affordable energy is a key enabler of sustainable development in terms of nutrition, transport, education and economic opportunity. Increasing access to energy and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in a manner that is responsive to the needs of different sectors of the population are priorities. Transitioning to clean and affordable energy will also help

[11] United Nations World Water Assessment Programme, *The United Nations World Water Development Report 2017* (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Paris, 2017).

countries to reduce the impacts of indoor and outdoor air pollution. It could help to establish access to energy in places that are difficult to reach and strengthen low-carbon development.

45. The transition towards sustainable energy is advancing at a gradual pace and must be accelerated. Clean energy installations, driven by new solar and wind power capacity, account for more than half of all recently installed power capacity but provide only 11 per cent of power generation globally. Owing to the rapidly decreasing costs of renewable energy technology and new business models, decentralized energy solutions hold great promise for accelerating the achievement of universal access to sustainable energy. Renewable energy has become the cheapest source of power for a growing number of countries, and the decrease in cost is likely to continue over the next decade. Owing to its increasing affordability, the applications and use of renewable energy have broadened and are providing new solutions for mobility and energy security worldwide.

46. Although growth in energy infrastructure can drive economic and social progress, because of the size of electricity networks exposed to hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts and floods, energy infrastructure is exposed to disasters to a large extent, causing significant social and economic disruptions. A prerequisite of measures to ensure access to energy for all is building the resilience of new and existing energy infrastructure to guarantee that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters.

47. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative has noted the impressive progress made in Bangladesh and Kenya in expanding access to energy to both urban and rural communities, driven by a combination of policies and integrated electrification strategies that rely on a mix of electrical grids, mini-grids and decentralized solar resources. Both countries have also devised policies and regulatory frameworks that attract diverse sources of public and private financing for energy-related projects and have been recognized for their improvements to regulatory frameworks for sustainable energy.[12]

48. Local governments are often in the best position for identifying gaps in access to affordable energy among vulnerable groups within communities. Local governments can directly contribute to energy efficiency by investing in energy efficient buildings, using green energy sources in public institutions and introducing sustainability criteria into procurement practices. Such initiatives can have the added advantage of reducing public spending on energy. In cities, local transport and urban planning policies, as well as new "smart city" technologies, can have a significant impact on energy efficiency and carbon emissions.

D. Resilient cities and strengthened urban-rural linkages

49. Cities face new and evolving challenges because of rapid urbanization, a changing climate and social instability. From earthquakes to flooding, rapid population changes to social exclusion, cities face a range of shocks and stresses, both natural and human-made. Unplanned cities are, however, more vulnerable to shocks, sometimes literally in the case of cities built on fault lines susceptible to earthquakes.

50. A resilient city assesses, plans and acts to prepare for and respond to foreseeable hazards — both sudden and slow-onset. By doing so, resilient cities are better able to protect and enhance people's lives, secure development gains, foster an environment conducive to investment, and drive positive change. Urbanization promotes development through the proximity and clustering of economic opportunities,

[12] SE4All (2017) *Energizing Finance*.

efficient service delivery and greater productivity of labour. To reap the benefits of these urban assets while minimizing the environmental and other adverse impacts of urban growth, governments must adopt strategies to plan for future urban growth. Government policies for planning and managing urban growth and that are based on good data and strategic planning, can help ensure that the benefits of urbanization are shared equitably and sustainably.

51. Under current policies and practices, the unprecedented urban expansion forecasted through 2030 will have a significant impact on important ecosystems and areas of biodiversity. Thus, ecosystem services — that is, the ways in which nature benefits households, communities and economies, for example through the regulation of the natural water cycle — and natural solutions must be integrated in urban policy and planning. To integrate a stronger consideration of urban biodiversity and ecosystem services into local governance, the key elements of a local biodiversity strategy and action plan can be incorporated into overarching city-wide plans, based on the guidelines prepared by the ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

52. Further, investments in infrastructure, such as transportation, basic services, industry, energy and housing, should be disaster risk-informed and resilient. This is especially important considering the increased exposure of people, critical infrastructure and economic investments to disasters as the result of climate change and uncontrolled urbanization. To address this, countries must strengthen national and local governance structures and normative and regulatory frameworks for disaster risk reduction in urban areas, including by improving and enforcing land-use plans and building codes. Building resilience should be affordable with reduced economic incentives for unsustainable development. Disaster risk assessments should become a prerequisite for new infrastructure and housing investments.

53. It is essential that local governments, particularly in the most vulnerable cities, integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into urban and regional planning to reduce the emissions of cities and increase their resilience to environmental shocks. Technology is a key tool for ensuring that urban services can weather extreme conditions and promote the resilience of urban communities. For example, in the waste management sector, technological innovation can help reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases during the waste treatment process, promoting climate resilience. Cities could also contribute to mitigation efforts by converting waste to energy as part of this process.

54. In urban contexts, vulnerable groups and the poor are disproportionately affected by shocks and stresses, as they often live in precarious locations and situations and do not have the resources or capacity to recover. Local authorities should encourage and support the active involvement of civil society organizations, including those representing migrant groups, in efforts to improve housing, infrastructure and social services for the poor and to reduce the vulnerability of low-income groups to environmental hazards.

55. Given the widening rural-urban divide in income and other development indicators, governments should consider rural-urban integration in planning, infrastructure and the provision of public services, among other areas. A policy priority should be to ensure the complementary and mutually reinforcing development of both rural and urban areas and minimize such divides. The discussion on the rural-urban divide can also be relevant to rising populism in many parts of the world, in part due to widening inequalities eroding social cohesion and fostering discontent, instability and political upheaval.

56. Planning for the delivery of services to urban and rural dwellers should include the consideration of different scenarios for the future growth of urban centres and surrounding rural settlements, taking into account patterns of internal migration and mobility and the spatial distribution of the population. For example, regional and municipal governments should consider how urban infrastructure links to surrounding territories, ensuring that urban areas work in harmony with the rural areas on which they rely for food and natural resources.

57. A critical rural-urban linkage to be strengthened concerns the need for more sustainable and healthy approaches to feeding the growing population. This is especially critical considering food and nutrition insecurities and the growing demand for food associated with rapid urbanization. Bringing smallholder farmers and rural dwellers into improved food value chains that span rural and urban communities could open up new opportunities for livelihoods and resilience, but only if enabling, integrated and inclusive policies and investments are in place. Special focus should be put on rural and farming communities, rural women, rural youth and indigenous peoples.

58. One relevant example identified by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Food Policy Research Institute is in Viet Nam, where the agricultural village Nhat, in the Red River Delta, has been shown to benefit from strengthened rural-urban linkages: an improved road and transport system, good communications infrastructure and strong connections to agricultural service suppliers. With increased access to nearby urban markets and export markets, farm households in the community successfully diversified agricultural activities beyond subsistence rice production and towards the intensive, high-value production of fruits and vegetables.[13]

E. Sustainable management of resources and ecosystems, and biodiversity protection

59. Ecosystem protection and restoration offer sustainable and cost-effective solutions for disaster risk reduction. Disaster risk reduction is therefore a crucial contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 15 on protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, while ecosystem protection contributes substantially to building resilience and reducing disaster risk.

60. The sustainable management and use of natural resources — including terrestrial biodiversity and water — is central to building resilience and adapting to the effects and mitigating the drivers of climate change. Evidence shows that steep increases in demand for certain natural resources often results in negative environmental repercussions, such as higher greenhouse gas emissions, with implications for climate change. Resilience also requires confronting more systemic global environmental changes, such as the exhaustion and pollution of water bodies, chemical pollution of soils and air, loss of biodiversity, depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer, acidification of oceans, disruption of the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles and change of land use.[14] Therefore, the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity is not only a way to mitigate risks but also fundamental to maintaining ecosystem services that are critical for quality of life, and productive and reproductive activities.

61. Local governments are in a unique position to protect natural resources and habitats. Local and subnational governments should ensure that biodiversity

[13] International Food Policy Research Institute, *2017 Global Food Policy Report*.

[14] Steffen et al., "Planetary Boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet", *Science*, vol. 347, no. 6223, 2015.

conservation is an integral part of urban planning and development strategy. Biodiversity conservation often requires cooperation between municipalities across their borders, for example in the creation of transboundary, biodiversity and wildlife corridors. Community-based participation and management, facilitated by local governments, is a powerful tool to halt biodiversity loss and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

62. It is important to note that, globally, groups such as smallholders, including pastoralists and indigenous peoples, manage a significant share of these resources, while being among those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss. Critically, these groups are often repositories of rich, varied and locally rooted knowledge systems. An enabling institutional and policy environment is needed for these actors to contribute to enhancing the broader sustainability of societies.

63. As one way of bolstering vulnerable rural and peri-urban populations' resilience through sustainable resource management, United Nations Environment Programme's Microfinance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation project partners with local microfinance providers in the Andean region of Colombia and Peru to generate microfinance services and products that facilitate local investment in sustainable ecosystem services. In the process, participants devise ways of improving their livelihoods and strengthening resilience to the effects of climate change. In a unique format linking microfinance and ecosystem-based adaptation, the project provides microfinance products to enable small-scale farmers to invest in ecosystem-based adaptation activities. As of 2017, 11,100 credits had been disbursed, amounting to $14.2 million of private investment towards ecosystem-based adaptation, and more than 7,000 small-scale farmers received awareness-raising and training on ecosystem-based adaptation measures. The project has also shown the potential for scaling up into other communities, with significant implications for sustainability and resilience.

V. International cooperation and partnerships in support of sustainable and resilient societies

Financing for sustainable development

64. All forms of development finance — public and private, domestic and international — must adequately take into consideration risk and resilience. For example, vulnerabilities will be compounded if the anticipated trillions needed for building infrastructure by 2030 are not allocated according to low-carbon and climate-resilient parameters.[15] International public finance, including official development assistance (ODA), is a critical complement to domestic resource mobilization, which at current levels remains insufficient to meet public investment needs. The roles of ODA and domestic resources are critical but insufficient to build resilience to the broad range of shocks that could have a negative impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

65. ODA flows decreased slightly in 2017 in real terms, but the decline in ODA to least developed countries was reversed. While this is welcome, overall disbursements to those countries in greatest need of concessional resources and most vulnerable to shocks and crises have stagnated.[16] Much of the increase in ODA in recent years was

[15] ODI and United Nations Development Programme, "Financing Sustainable Development: the critical role of risk and resilience", 2016.

[16] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.I.5). Available from https://developmentfinance.un.org/sites/developmentfinance.un.org/files/Report_IATF_2018.pdf.

due to the resources being spent on refugees in host countries; the slight decline in ODA in 2017 reflects the receding of these costs. ODA reporting rules for hosting refugees were updated and clarified in the 2017 high-level meeting of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as standards used by providers were not uniform. Humanitarian aid rose by 6.1 per cent in real terms in 2017, to $154.45 billion. These increases have raised concerns that spending on refugees and humanitarian aid could negatively impact funding for longer-term development objectives.

66. Rethinking the way ODA is spent is necessary to better incorporate risk reduction and resilience. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda committed countries to allocate concessional resources to countries with the greatest needs and the fewest options for mobilizing resources. ODA fulfils important functions that other sources of finance cannot and is a vital resource for building resilience, especially in highly vulnerable poor countries. Middle-income countries and countries in special situations, such as smalls island developing States, also have diverse development needs that must be considered. For example, the remoteness, size and vulnerability of such States to external shocks exacerbate their continued dependence on official concessional financing and their limited ability to mobilize domestic resources. Adequate consideration of risk levels and the commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda could help to ensure a rational global allocation of bilateral development aid.

67. The growing cost of disasters each year has increasingly revealed gaps in the current international development finance architecture for countries responding to crises and attempting to build resilience. Another relevant aspect is the speediness of the release of funds. Additionally, countries affected by disasters may already have high levels of indebtedness; reconstruction, which requires a major injection of additional financing, can exacerbate debt levels. Innovative solutions such as multi-creditor debt swaps for climate action and resilience could be considered, building on the work being done by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in this area.

68. Under the Paris Agreement, parties committed to mobilizing at least $100 billion per year for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries to help communities to build resilience. While there is no central accounting mechanism for climate finance flows, adaptation activities are clearly underfunded. Recent assessments find that adaptation finance, while still vastly insufficient, is catching up, partly thanks to the Green Climate Fund, partly due to climate-related ODA for adaptation.

Investing in disaster risk reduction

69. Analysis has shown that annual investments of $6 billion in disaster risk reduction could generate risk reduction benefits of up to $360 billion. Financing disaster risk reduction, therefore, releases resources to be invested across the Sustainable Development Goals, and can be a driver of innovation, green growth and other objectives. Such investments are cost-effective too, representing only 0.1 per cent of the estimated $6 trillion per year that must be invested globally in infrastructure by 2030.[17]

70. Such statistics underline the importance of supporting the development and implementation of national disaster risk reduction plans that address the growing challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, urbanization and

[17] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction 2015". Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/home/GAR_2015/GAR_2015_1.html.

population growth. A risk-informed approach to sustainable development is needed to ensure that investments towards the Sustainable Development Goals reduce rather than create new disaster risks. Special emphasis should be placed on the least developed and most vulnerable countries, including through South-South cooperation and facilitating the use of innovative methods and technologies.

71. Formulating strategies and plans for sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation provides an opportunity to enhance coherence between intergovernmental agreements at the national and local levels. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 1 on ending poverty and its target 5 on resilience, countries must redouble their efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into their national development plans and policies. This includes taking a disaster-risk-informed approach to their national Sustainable Development Goals strategies; implementing the Sustainable Development Goals with indicators specific to disaster risk reduction; and promoting integration between national and local disaster reduction strategies. The development of national climate change adaptation plans and national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, as per the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, are critical opportunities for coherence. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is working with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat to develop technical guidance to support countries in developing integrated national climate change adaptation plans and national disaster risk reduction strategies.

Diaspora communities

72. The positive role of investments by migrants and diasporas towards sustainable development in their communities of origin has been well documented, and is an important resource for building resilience. In 2017, worldwide remittance flows were estimated to have reached $596 billion, the majority of which were to developing countries. These flows tend to play a particularly important role in poor and small economies, and are often a principal lifeline for households in conflict-affected countries, or in times of economic hardship and in the aftermath of natural disasters. Remittances also tend to be relatively stable and often recover fairly quickly from economic shocks in host countries. Beyond financial resources, migrants and diasporas also serve as key networks for knowledge transfer and capacity-building in support of urban and rural communities.

Innovative, urban networks

73. There are promising partnerships being pursued at the local level through networks of cities across the globe. Many of these are rooted in the best practices of bottom-up, locally driven priority-setting and development. The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group — the global network of cities committed to addressing climate change — is a good example of increasing cross-border collaboration between cities that underlines the value of tackling environmental degradation and carbon emissions in urban communities. Such a network, which is based on knowledge sharing and data collaboration, is especially critical given that, globally, urban areas will need to make more than 60 per cent of the reductions in greenhouse gases necessary by 2050 (compared to 2013 levels) and non-urban areas approximately 40 per cent.[15]

74. In response to the calls made by the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, cities are mainstreaming resilience in their policymaking and taking transformative action through various global efforts, including the Making Cities Resilient campaign of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Making Cities Resilient

[15] New Climate Institute, "Opportunity 2030: benefits of climate action in cities", 2018. Available at: https://newclimate.org/2018/03/06/opportunity-2030-benefits-of-climate-action-in-cities/.

brings cities together from across the world to focus on implementation support, city-to-city learning and cooperation, local action planning and the monitoring of progress in cities. It provides tools for mapping risk and assessing resilience, including through a "Disaster resilience scorecard for cities".

Integrated United Nations support for collective results

75. The United Nations is strengthening the manner in which it works coherently at the country level in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need for improved sustainability and resilience in diverse country settings. These efforts are being carried out in line with General Assembly resolution 71/243, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, and the ongoing discussion on the Secretary-General's proposals for repositioning the United Nations development system. They are supported by the United Nations analytical framework on risk and resilience (see section II above). The Organization is committed to improving the coherence of its support to efforts to address challenges in the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding spheres. The United Nations strategic approach on climate change action is also critical.

76. Key to supporting efforts at the country level will be the improved use of risk-informed analysis by United Nations entities and greater coordination of this work. For example, the United Nations Children's Fund is launching its guidance for risk-informed programming, a methodology for conducting child-centred risk analysis that is complemented by a collaborative process with multiple child-rights stakeholders to design or adapt programmes to further risk reduction, resilience and peace objectives. The risk-informed programming seeks to achieve development or humanitarian-related results and to safeguard progress for all against the negative impacts of shocks and stresses.

77. Significant data gaps remain with respect to sustainability and resilience, making risk assessment and foresight challenging. There are key challenges regarding specific data on cities, internal and international migration, and other forms of mobility. New sources of data, including geospatial data and "big data", could be useful for addressing some gaps, but will require national and international coordination and cooperation. In building the information systems needed for resilience to climate-related challenges, a wide range of data developers across sectors will need to collaborate and coordinate under the aegis of national statistical offices.

78. These data challenges have been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, with leadership from the United Nations Statistical Commission, are being taken up by international organizations. Success will require unprecedented cooperation at the global and national levels. Strengthened international cooperation is needed for a new form of data development and to build capacities for using data effectively, including within the context of integrated climate impact assessments.

VI. Conclusion

79. This report makes a clear case for supporting sustainable and resilience societies as part of efforts towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is a universal agenda, agreed by States, but reliant on all stakeholders for its successful implementation, not least local communities and local governments, often the first to be affected by unforeseen or emerging development challenges. Four key drivers of risk that have relevance for the sustainability and resilience of urban and rural communities were identified by the report: climate change; poverty and inequality; poorly planned urbanization; and environmental degradation. In support

of sustainability and communities' resilience to such risks and related vulnerabilities, critical areas of action and potential tools are proposed.

80. There are several common, cross-cutting elements that emerge from efforts to support sustainable and resilient societies. All stakeholders are recommended to prioritize these elements in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These include: the importance of local ownership and capacities; foresight and risk planning; policy integration; and inclusivity.

81. **National and local ownership of strategies for building resilience play a key role in advancing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.** Top-down or one-size-fits-all approaches have a greater chance of failing than those rooted in local realities. Local governments are critical for translating the vision of the 2030 Agenda into tangible progress for communities, households and individuals, especially for those who are at risk of falling behind. Local communities and actors are best placed to understand how to apply the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals to local contexts, priorities and capacities. They are also inclined to thinking about longer-range impacts, flexibility and the specific aspects that could affect effective implementation.

82. **All countries should ensure that local capacities and systems are strengthened to guarantee sustainable results and build resilient communities.** Local actors must be at the forefront of concrete actions to strengthen resilience, preparedness and response efforts. Such efforts should thus be as local as possible and as international as necessary. A critical, initial step is to assess the existing local capacities for preventing and responding effectively to crises in urban and rural communities, while charting strategies for filling identified gaps. Because local capacities vary and local institutions often share responsibility with other levels of authority, local capacities should be strengthened in line with national capacity development efforts to ensure coherence.

83. **Foresight and risk planning is also a requirement.** Short-term thinking is antithetical to building resilience and addressing risk in a sustainable way, but the capacities, incentives and data needed for forecasting are sometimes lacking. Strategic foresight prioritizes resilience by focusing on uncertainty and, using the best available evidence, anticipating how particular problems may be experienced by local communities and what existing and new resources could be used to prevent or resist development setbacks. Awareness informs flexibility in long-term plans, resulting in the formulation of more adaptable policies and programmes.

84. **Foresight can also be a useful driver of innovation.** In this respect, rural-urban migration is interlinked with issues that include land use, social inclusion and environmental change. Having the foresight to anticipate future needs and challenges can inspire innovative and entrepreneurial projects to address these concerns before they become too disruptive. In the low-capacity contexts of many developing countries, foresight-related training, activities and exercises could be considered useful areas for knowledge-sharing and development cooperation.

85. **Economic, social and environmental sustainability and resilience are mutually dependent, and require an integrated approach for policy and planning.** The importance of thinking systemically about the continuum of policies that reduce people's exposure to risks is critical for building sustainable and resilient societies; it allows for efforts to address the complex interlinkages between risks and opportunities. Integrated approaches are also necessary to review the range of policies and actions to assess trade-offs and determine the most optimal strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The integration of climate change responses with development processes is a further goal, as action on climate change

is more likely to be effective when designed and implemented in the context of other interventions for building sustainability and resilience.

86. **Measures taken to build resilience should emphasize inclusive participation by a wide range of stakeholders.** This can help to address the differentiated nature of vulnerability and risk within communities and across various population groups. Poor women, for example, are usually among the most severely affected by shocks, and there are a disproportionate number of deaths among women and children caused by extreme weather events. At the same time, women are often the first responders when a disaster strikes and have comprehensive knowledge of the land, resources and local needs, but are often excluded from decision-making processes. Their engagement, as well as the involvement of youth and other vulnerable groups, is critical to shifting societies towards sustainable practices and improved resilience to ensure that no one is left behind.

United Nations A/73/83–E/2018/62

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Item 22 of the preliminary list*
Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Economic and Social Council
2018 session
27 July 2017–26 July 2018
Agenda item 18 (d)
Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/235. It is the first of a series of five quadrennial reports and an element of the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It describes the incremental and inclusive approach coordinated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities, for the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 71/256.

Many lessons, challenges and opportunities have become apparent in the 18 months since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, and the present report illustrates the progress being made by United Nations entities, national and subnational governments, local authorities and stakeholders in its implementation and monitoring.

The report is organized into five sections. Section I provides its context and purpose. Section II positions the New Urban Agenda vis-à-vis the other global development agendas adopted in 2015 and 2016, clarifying the interlinkages and describing how the New Urban Agenda is an accelerator for the achievement of all other agendas, and calling for coherence and integration in both policy and implementation.

Section III recommends an incremental approach to reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, based on four elements: (a) systems for the production of user-friendly and participatory data platforms that add to existing sources of data; (b) new and expanded platforms for engagement on knowledge

* A/73/50.

18-06443 (E) 180518

Please recycle

production and reporting; (c) a United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism that strengthens and expands partnerships; and (d) capacities to report on the implementation of the sustainable urban development agendas, including data collection and analysis, policy development, implementation and stakeholder engagement.

Section IV describes the key stepping stones towards effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including governance structures and supportive frameworks; planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development; and means of implementation, including financing, innovations and capacity development.

Finally, Section V offers key recommendations to Member States.

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/24 and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/235.

2. The New Urban Agenda is about people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships in urban settings. It was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016.[1] In September 2017, the Assembly convened a high-level meeting, as called for in the Agenda, which discussed the effective implementation of the Agenda and the positioning of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and proposed the strengthening of UN-Habitat for more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

3. The present report, issued 18 months after the adoption of the Agenda, is the first in a series of five quadrennial reports and an element of the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Agenda. It assesses the current systems and resources in place to implement and monitor the Agenda and recommends steps to ensure the successful production of subsequent reports. The second quadrennial report, in 2022, will include quantitative and qualitative data resulting from the monitoring systems proposed in the present report. It will also include voluntary inputs from Member States and contributions from the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations, partners and stakeholders, using the platforms of engagement proposed in the present report.[2] The third quadrennial report, in 2026, will serve as a midterm review of the implementation of the Agenda, taking stock of progress and identifying possible improvements.

4. Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, many urban challenges have intensified. Growing inequality, social exclusion and spatial segregation continue to have an impact on peoples' lives in most of the world's cities, producing a dramatic concentration of disadvantages in specific places and for specific people. Urban areas are increasingly epicentres of crises, insecurity and violence, fuelling displacement and forced migration. The majority of the 25 million refugees and 40 million internally displaced persons in the world today live in cities and urban settlements, often under difficult conditions. Housing remains largely unaffordable in both the developing and the developed world. Globally, 1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing,[3] of which approximately 1 billion live in slums and informal settlements lacking basic services. Accompanying the femininization of urban poverty, female-headed households in slums and informal settlements are growing. All of these forms of exclusion disproportionally affect women, youth, older persons, migrants and other marginalized groups.

5. Unsustainable models of urbanization persist, including informal and unplanned urban growth, that consume excessive land and energy and damage the environment. Nevertheless, many cities remain places of innovation, social change and prosperity. With the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the international community agreed that urbanization could be a driver of positive change. Subsequently, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, adopted at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, highlighted again the transformative power of cities and recalled the genuine aspiration to leave no one and no place behind. The Agenda is the framework to

[1] General Assembly resolution 71/256.

[2] Ibid., paras. 162 and 166.

[3] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and Development — Emerging Futures* (Nairobi, 2016).

integrate and elevate the vital role that cities must play in decision-making and realizing development transformations.

6. It is important to highlight that Governments face various challenges in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban components of the Sustainable Development Goals. Such challenges include low levels of awareness regarding the potential benefits of urbanization and of urban-related commitments made in global development agendas. National authorities face further challenges, such as low institutional and fiscal capacity, lack of development financing and weak multilevel governance structures and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda demands local actions. This requires an institutional, organizational, policy and financial capacity, which is often lacking or poorly developed. Local governments are frequently ill equipped in terms of financial and human resources, which hinders their ability to plan, manage and execute the transformative policies and actions in the Agenda. The capacity to strengthen devolution and local autonomy in many countries is low, and many cities continue to lack local revenues, taxes and financial resources to manage challenges related to urbanization. This is aggravated by the scarcity of well-trained personnel, which hinders the development and use of innovative policies and urban management instruments.

7. The reporting mechanisms of the New Urban Agenda link to those of other global commitments and development agendas that address these urban challenges. Tracking progress on and assessing the impact of the implementation of the Agenda on all scales requires an integrated approach combining both quantitative and qualitative data, including spatial varieties of both. Monitoring implementation of the Agenda also provides the opportunity to increase ownership among implementing partners, including many marginalized groups that can play an invaluable role in implementation.

8. The present report was prepared in consultation with 23 United Nations entities, 5 regional economic and social commissions and 30 partners. It builds on the Habitat III process, which included various multi-stakeholder platforms, regional and thematic conferences, policy units and the consultative processes facilitated by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and the General Assembly of Partners. It concludes with recommendations for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda until 2036, which will require substantial commitment and support from public, private and non-governmental entities alike during the coming years.

II. Strengthening the interlinkages between global development agendas

9. The New Urban Agenda emphasizes the importance of strongly interlinking global development agendas,[4] particularly those which precede it. It is an accelerator for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, among others. The ongoing efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda are inextricable from the fulfilment of the goals, principles and targets of the other agendas, all of which have important urban and territorial dimensions. Understanding the range of interdependencies among them is key to unlocking their

[4] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 6, 9, 11, 12, 77, 79, 127, 128 and 150.

full potential, optimizing resources and leveraging resource development outcomes at every level of government, within the United Nations system and across all sectors and stakeholders.

A. Coherence among global agendas at the urban level

10. The 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of reinforcing and complementing the global agendas to avoid inefficiencies and reduce or minimize negative interactions.[5] A better understanding of these interlinkages will inform balanced decision-making to recognize necessary trade-offs and adopt long-lasting solutions. Systematic monitoring and analysis, coupled with policies and initiatives to build coherence across the global development agendas, is necessary to achieve the holistic approach of the New Urban Agenda. Universal concepts such as "leave no one behind"; progressive approaches to human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment; the adoption of various United Nations conventions and agreements;[6] and the efforts of some national and local governments to enshrine the "right to the city" vision[7] and implement comprehensive evidence-based approaches to end violence against women and girls,[8] are important foundations and cross references for integrated implementation. Significant positive interactions are achieved when multisectoral, multi-stakeholder governance and partnerships are adopted, and when financial resources and technology are used in a more efficient manner to support horizontal relations and policy coherence across sectors and actors, as proposed in the present report.[9]

11. The interlinkages between the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, are extensive. More than half of the Goal targets have an urban component, linked to about 60 per cent of the Goal indicators. Some of the links between the Goals and the Agenda are straightforward. This is the case, for instance, with Goal 4 on education, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 16 on good governance and Goal 17 on partnerships and means of implementation, which are strongly connected to sustainable urbanization. Issues such as climate change, housing and slums, financing, sustainable production and consumption, inequalities, infrastructure and basic services, gender equality, gender-based violence, food security and nutrition, and migration are inextricably linked to cities. Policies and strategies that respond to those issues together can transform potential synergies into holistic action.[10]

12. Likewise, there is strong evidence that integrated urban planning, access to basic services, slum upgrading, and decent and affordable housing reduce non-communicable diseases and limit environmental impacts, supporting Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health and well-being, Goal 7 on energy and Goal 13 on climate.[11] Similarly, the provision of regional and urban infrastructure, as a component of Goal 9, contributes to enhancing markets and value chains, supporting

[5] International Council for Science, *A Guide to Sustainable Development Goal Interactions: From Science to Implementation*, D.J. Griggs and others, eds. (Paris, 2017).

[6] Notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 11.

[8] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), "Safe cities and safe public spaces: global results report" (New York, 2017).

[9] International Council for Science, *A Guide to Sustainable Development Goal Interactions*.

[10] Ibid.

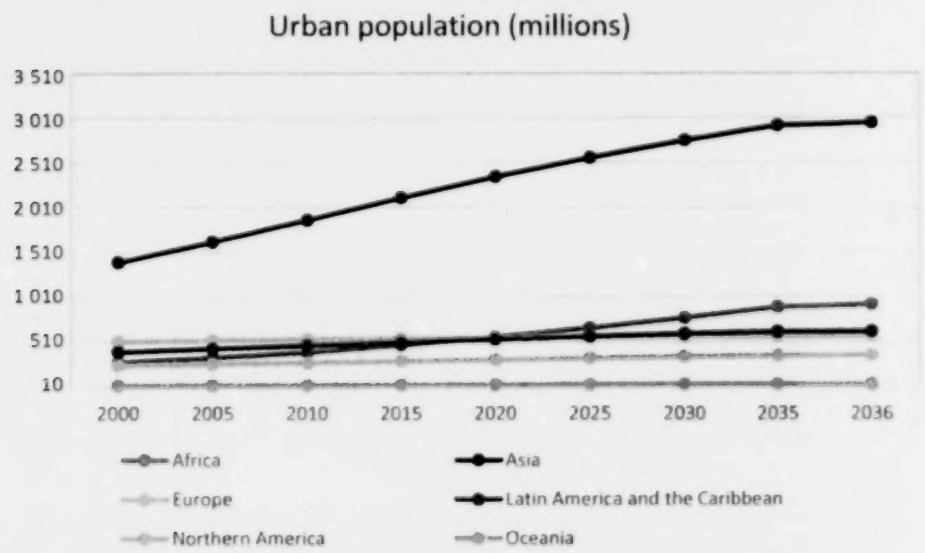
[11] Ibid.

Goal 8 on work and economic growth and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production, and creating better rural-urban interlinkages that favour the attainment of Goal 2 on achieving food security and improved nutrition and improving sustainable agriculture.[12]

13. The New Urban Agenda has a strong gender equality component, connecting it with Sustainable Development Goal 5. As noted by United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), violence against women, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence are a global pandemic violating the right of women and girls to live free from fear and violence, and many of these issues are intensified in urban settings. For example, when residents must endure longer commuting times and higher transportation costs, for women this can also mean exposure to violence, harassment or insecurity. Similarly, the lack of access to basic services, affordable housing options and land tenure rights disproportionately affects women. These dynamics inform the attention of the present report to the concerted need for collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in every context, which is vital to ensuring the gender-responsive and therefore successful implementation of the Urban Agenda.

14. In recognition of the benefits of synergistic responses, the Agenda calls for improvements in the training and capacity of urban planners to ensure that they respond to integrated challenges comprehensively. Progress on this objective is vital to successfully achieving not only Sustainable Development Goal 11 but also all of the global development agendas.[13]

Figure I
Urban population, by continent, 2000–2036

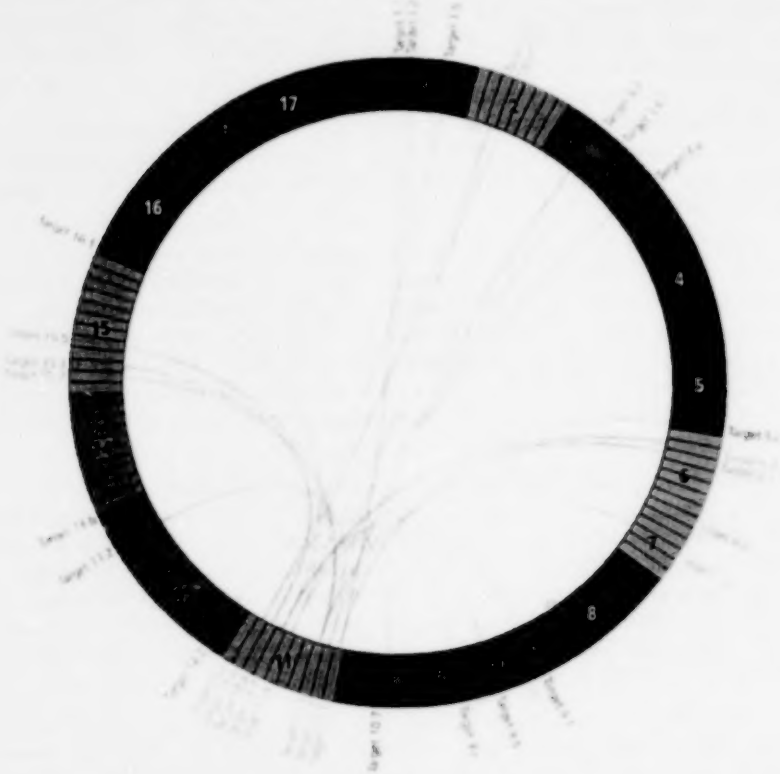


Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*.

[12] See supplementary materials for the present report prepared via a consultative process, available from http://nua.unhabitat.org.

[13] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 102.

Figure II
The impact of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on the other Goals



15. UN-Habitat, as a focal point within the United Nations system on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, is working in close collaboration with United Nations system entities and the Statistics Division to complement the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring framework process by including specific components of the Agenda that are not covered by Goal indicators. For instance, the Agenda and target 11.b of Goal 11 call for cities and human settlements to adopt and implement integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and resilience to disasters. In response, the United Nations system, led by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, is mobilizing Governments and key partners to achieve this objective. In addition, cities and mayors are increasingly taking the initiative and responsibility for local-level monitoring and the development of local plans to implement the Paris Agreement, sometimes independently of national level support. Examples include national networks of cities addressing climate change, such as the 402 cities within the United States Climate Mayors platform, as well as globe-spanning organizations such as Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments, the World Association of the Major Metropolises, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and other collaborative initiatives such as Planners for Climate Action.

B. Enhancing policy coherence

16. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda helps facilitate the achievement of other development agendas, presenting an enabling foundation through specific policies, plans, approaches and actions in the urban context. One example is engendering national urban policies[14] to implement Sustainable Development Goal 5. Alignment is a key concept of policy coherence that refers to actors, sectors and scales of intervention across the implementation continuum. National urban policies are, for instance, key instruments to amalgamate the often disjointed energies and potential of urban centres, establishing synergetic connections and policy coherence by aligning the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development.[15]

17. The innumerable connections among global goals and targets demand more research and knowledge about the factors that shape them. The City Prosperity Initiative of UN-Habitat has made important progress in understanding the nature and strength of, and the relationship among, the different dimensions of sustainable urbanization. Implemented in more than 400 cities, the Initiative has contributed to understanding and leveraging synergetic relations, providing policymakers, investors and other stakeholders with the information necessary for adopting more informed and comprehensive policies.

18. There must also be coherence among the critical upcoming milestones of the global agendas, including the next meeting of the Group of 20 in 2018 with Urban 20 (U20), led by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and the United Nations *Global Sustainable Development Report* in 2019, which will reflect on the achievements related to the urban and territorial dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. These outcomes will integrate and feed into the reporting system for the quadrennial reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as presented in the annex to the present document.

19. In coordination with all other United Nations system entities and the Statistics Division, significant progress has been made in the development of national capacities and training tools to help Member States collect, analyse and use urban data for monitoring progress in the implementation of these agendas.[12] UN-Habitat and the United Nations regional commissions have provided training to over 50 countries on monitoring various Sustainable Development Goal indicators and key thematic areas of the New Urban Agenda and have developed reference guidelines for national statistical offices.[16] If properly integrated, these tools can guide cities and countries towards coherent action on climate mitigation, sustainable urbanization and the concurrent realization of the Agenda and several Goal targets. To date, for example, close to 70 per cent of the submitted nationally determined contributions to implement the Paris Agreement show clear urban references, on which these training tools can build and which they strengthen.

20. An interlinked approach avoids overlap, ensures better use of human and financial capital and adds value by connecting the underlying principles among the agendas that may rely on the same funding envelopes, contain cross-cutting objectives and have an impact on the same communities. The New Urban Agenda has many concrete interlinkages with the monitoring methodology and indicators of the

[14] As discussed at the expert group meeting on engendering national urban policies, held during the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy, held in May 2017 in Paris.

[15] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016*.

[16] UN-Habitat, "Sustainable urbanization in the Paris Agreement: comparative review of nationally determined contributions for urban content" (Nairobi, 2017). Available from https://unhabitat.org/books/sustainable-urbanization-in-the-paris-agreement.

Sustainable Development Goals, which were developed in collaboration with the Statistics Division and other United Nations system entities. For example, the monitoring of air quality and short-lived climate pollutants in urban spaces can utilize indicator 9.1 of Goal 3 and indicator 6.2 of Goal 11. The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat, under the umbrella of UN-Water, have developed monitoring methodologies for tracking water quality. While some focus areas of the New Urban Agenda can be monitored effectively using existing indicators applied at the local level, UN-Habitat is currently developing a framework comprising complementary targets and indicators. This is vital to the successful monitoring of the implementation of the Agenda in alignment with the other agendas.

21. Balanced and integrated territorial development and the incorporation of urban and regional synergies is addressed in both the Agenda and the Goals,[17] presenting an opportunity to mainstream and integrate complementary monitoring into the quadrennial reports. National and local governments that are collecting data and monitoring the Agenda and Goals are not yet fully integrating global agendas into country processes and systems. The preparation of integrated reports on the urban dimensions of global agendas lessens the burden of monitoring and reporting on countries and cities, and contributes to connections across different funding mechanisms.

22. At the regional level, the European Union is examining the interlinkages with all development agendas and utilizing the New Urban Agenda as the implementing agenda of the urban dimensions of the global agreements through the Urban Agenda for the European Union[18] and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The African Union, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and UN-Habitat, is developing a regional framework aligned with Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other initiatives.

23. The creation of an overarching enabling environment for implementing the New Urban Agenda is a prerequisite for higher policy coherence. Since the adoption of the Agenda, the necessary and successful creation of an enabling environment — in terms of data access, knowledge, provision of municipal finance, expertise and capacity development — has yet to be fostered in many places, particularly at the local level. This is a critical gap. Methods to measure progress in creating an enabling environment include the city enabling environment rating in the Asia-Pacific region, and the *Assessing the Institutional Environment of Local Governments in Africa* report, developed jointly by the Cities Alliance initiative and United Cities and Local Governments. The Agenda and related global agendas cannot be achieved without the leadership of local and subnational governments, in tandem with relevant stakeholders, and in recognition of the need to assess the enabling environments necessary for more coherent national urban policies.

C. Progress towards an integrated approach

24. As highlighted throughout the present document and in the supplementary materials provided on the UN-Habitat website,[12] some local, subnational and national governments have made progress in developing connected local plans and processes for the follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda and are achieving synergies between the different global agendas.

[17] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 15, 23, 50, 88, 98, 119 and 136.

[18] Available from https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/node/1829.

25. Various forms of data, including spatial and qualitative information such as best practices and community-based data, are relevant for the monitoring of and reporting on implementation of the global agendas, and the proper analysis and application of such data are vital to the achievement of the goals contained in those agendas. For instance, the World Bank, through the Global Land Tool Network, has developed land indicators to measure tenure security with the support of donors. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is developing refined guides and tools for mapping crime and violence, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is identifying qualitative factors in which culture can play a role in achieving the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. At the national level, many countries, including Botswana, Colombia, India and Tunisia, have developed joint workplans to monitor and report on global agendas. In Mexico, the Institute of the National Workers' Housing Fund, the largest housing bank in Latin America, implemented the City Prosperity Initiative on a nationwide scale, enabling the Government to use data and information to produce more than 100 city action plans based on this information. This demonstrates a clear institutional impact in which data and metrics have served to provide substance to the elaboration of these plans.

27. Local governments are making similar efforts: the Seoul Metropolitan Government launched the Seoul Sustainable Development Goals, which include the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 96 indicators, with a clear link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda. Another example of effective local integration of the Goals and the Agenda is seen in the city of Mannheim, Germany, which initiated its local agenda, Mannheim 2030, after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, aligned with German efforts to monitor progress towards Agenda 2030 concurrently with the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda at the national level. Part of this effort is the integrated city charter management tool that the city of Mannheim, Germany, developed with input from its citizens to identify the city's monitoring and implementation priorities in an inclusive manner. These and other city experiences show that adequate resources at the municipal level are vital to achieving successful local contextualization.

28. It is important to systematically identify positive and negative interactions, map existing institutions and actors with the capacity to deliver on these agendas, ensure that new mechanisms are put in place for policy integration and coherence,[19] identify complementary monitoring indicators and establish mechanisms to synthesize and report on them.

III. Developing an incremental and inclusive reporting system

29. The process for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda complements and supports the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda and other global sustainability agendas. Most of the reporting related to the New Urban Agenda draws on the system of indicators and data that are available from the 2030 Agenda monitoring framework coordinated by the Statistics Division.

30. An incremental approach to reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is needed, building on the Sustainable Development Goal global monitoring framework and efforts led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Statistics Division. This approach focuses on four interrelated elements: (a) reinforcing systems for the production of user-friendly and participatory data platforms; (b) building on existing dynamic platforms for engagement, participation

[19] International Council for Science, *A Guide to Sustainable Development Goal Interactions*.

and partnership, integrating partners into the process to produce data, knowledge and reporting; (c) strengthening partnerships with relevant entities of the United Nations system through a United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism; and (d) developing capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban development agendas.

31. Such an incremental approach to the quadrennial reports will be the structural basis for the preparation of subsequent reports as presented in annex I. This will build awareness on transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda and its links with other development agendas, working closely with the Statistics Division and United Nations system entities to enhance ownership while supporting broad-based monitoring and review.

A. Systems for the production of user-friendly and participatory data platforms

32. The New Urban Agenda requires that reporting on the progress of its implementation be country-led, outlining an inclusive process that integrates the actions of a wide range of stakeholders, complementing the work of national Governments, including the collation of data and information and their use in policy formulation.[20]

33. Monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda will continue to benefit from investments in strengthening the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agenda monitoring platforms. In its focal point role, UN-Habitat has begun to assess, together with Secretariat departments and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the monitoring gaps for areas specific to the New Urban Agenda and to orient existing tools and initiatives to support this, such as its City Prosperity Initiative and the City Resilience Profiling tool. The novel local and urban nature of the indicators for Goal 11 is prompting the development of methodologies for the collection and harmonization of data.

34. United Nations entities, the Statistical Commission, the regional economic and social commissions, United Nations country teams, multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions are all providing coherent support to national reporting on multiple development agendas, with important progress being made, for instance, in the harmonization of data for better comparability. As part of this process, a functional definition of the city has been proposed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, UN-Habitat and other partners for consideration by countries in order to better compare and aggregate data consistently.

35. Important global and regional trends with significant implications for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda require innovative forms of mapping and measurement to ensure systematic reporting at the country and city levels. This is the case with the urban expansion of cities, which on average, have been increasing in size twice as fast as the urban population growth, with a concomitant reduction of urban densities.[21] To aid future global and regional urban monitoring, the Global Sample of Cities,[22] involving 200 cities, was developed, as part of the proposed incremental approach to reporting on the Agenda. In support of country monitoring and reporting, the Statistical Commission, at its forty-eighth session, discussed the adoption of a national sample of cities that allows for systematic reporting, higher comparability among countries and aggregation of

[20] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 166–167.

[21] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016*.

[22] UN-Habitat, *The Fundamentals of Urbanization: Evidence Base for Policy Making* (2016).

regional values. The need for spatial data has also been recognized by other entities such as the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. These efforts will require the development and strengthening of skills and systems for collecting and reporting on spatially dependent global indicators and targets.

36. New forms of data, the disaggregation of data and new methods of spatial analysis are being developed by various organizations. The ways in which urban performance is measured has a significant impact on the implementation of all the global development agendas. For example, the Urban Data Platform (see http://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu) developed by the European Commission is merging traditional information sources, fine-scale satellite imagery, census data, volunteered geographic information and big data to form multifaceted data sets and produce consistent spatial urban indicators. Specific stakeholder-produced data related to gender and age, persons with disabilities and other groups is enriching measurement tools. Examples include community-based enumerations such as the Know Your City global initiative of Shack Dwellers International. Such initiatives will play a crucial role in strengthening data and the statistical capacities of national Governments to effectively monitor and report on progress achieved, and inform decision-making at different levels.[23]

37. With more than 320 local and national urban observatories, the UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory is a global repository for urban data that addresses multiple territorial levels and can be complemented by topical data from other sources, including United Nations entities. Flagship reports produced by various United Nations entities, including the *World Cities Report*, are other potential complements to the quadrennial report process.

B. Reinforcing platforms for engagement, participation and partnership for monitoring and reporting

38. The leading role in reporting on implementation of the New Urban Agenda lies with national Governments. Guidelines for country-led, voluntary reporting on the implementation of the Agenda are being developed by UN-Habitat and will be tested and adjusted by mid-2019. National Governments, including those of Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uganda and the State of Palestine, have also established intersectoral bodies, national habitat committees and other national participatory monitoring platforms.

39. The high-level political forum on sustainable development is the central mechanism for assessing and reporting progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Global reporting requirements on the multiple agendas are being met progressively, with increasing focus on issues of the New Urban Agenda, linkages between global reporting timelines and efforts to ensure coordination between UN-Habitat and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

40. Regional mechanisms, notably the regional forums for sustainable development convened by the United Nations regional economic and social commissions, are instrumental platforms for peer learning and addressing regional priorities. The African Union, the League of Arab States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the European Union, the subregional platform for implementing the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean States and the regional conferences of ministers of housing and urban development also play key roles in addressing regional and subregional urban priorities.

[23] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 158–160.

41. The Asia-Pacific Urban Forum of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has called for action through regional cooperation that engages stakeholders to implement the New Urban Agenda. The 2019 Forum will review progress and launch the *Future of Asia-Pacific Cities* report, providing an analysis of emerging trends related to the implementation of the Agenda and Goals.

42. Local and regional governments are already producing information that substantiates progress on the Agenda. Such voluntary national review efforts are supported by many local governments, including by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments. The World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment and the Global Municipal Database have also helped monitor change in subnational financial resources and understand finance at the local level.

43. The New Urban Agenda recognizes specific roles for subnational and local government associations represented in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities. Research institutions and platforms also play critical roles in monitoring implementation of the Agenda and urban components of the Sustainable Development Goals[24] and continue to provide important technical support to local authorities.

44. Knowledge-sharing mechanisms and inclusive reporting platforms are essential for engaging partners and collecting data in a cross-sectoral manner. The ninth session of the World Urban Forum, convened in 2018 by UN-Habitat, provided an opportunity to assess the challenges and first steps towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Upcoming Forums will constitute a key platform to further capture knowledge and innovations.[25] The online Quito implementation plan platform, established after the Habitat III Conference, should be strengthened by 2019 to become a dynamic system for gathering knowledge, best practices and data. Urban Thinkers Campuses also continue to engage partners for collaborative action towards implementation of the Agenda. An important platform to disseminate these achievements is the best practice platform that builds on the Dubai International Award for Best Practices, with categories now aligned with the Agenda, which will be fully operational by 2019. Finally, independent platforms and stakeholder networks, such as the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the General Assembly of Partners, promote bottom-up monitoring and reporting on the Agenda and the Goals.

C. Partnerships within the United Nations development system

45. The New Urban Agenda constitutes the basis of a United Nations system-wide approach to the implementation of the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the global development agendas. Thus far, 12 United Nations entities have a strategy for implementing the Agenda in place and another three agencies are currently preparing such a strategy. WHO and UNICEF are pursuing joint activities for the monitoring of water and sanitation components of the Agenda, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and UN-Habitat are undertaking joint activities for the monitoring of land tenure components. Such integrated approaches will intensify participation and coordination at the global, regional, national and local levels.

46. United Nations entities have pursued efforts to refine and harmonize the global indicators framework adopted by the Statistical Commission to make progress in the

[24] Timon McPhearson and others, "Building urban science to achieve the New Urban Agenda" Available from www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/10/24/building-urban-science-to-achieve-the-new-urban-agenda.

[25] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 167.

monitoring and review of the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. At the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, United Nations entities assembled to review and further develop proposed actions, frameworks and joint financing mechanisms. For example, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and UN-Habitat held a meeting on harmonizing the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Agenda and Goal 11.

47. At the global level, UNEP and UN-Habitat, through the Greener Cities Partnership, are working jointly to implement the Agenda by promoting environmental sustainability in urban development. UNESCO has been positioning and supporting culture as a key driver and enabler of the 2030 Agenda, working with other United Nations entities to develop a measurement system for its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. UN-Habitat is mainstreaming the New Urban Agenda through other inter-agency mechanisms such as UN-Water, UN-Energy and the High-level Advisory Group of the Secretary-General on Sustainable Transport.

49. In strengthening collaboration across humanitarian and development action in relevant settings, UN-Habitat is working closely with other United Nations entities, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Food Programme to integrate sustainable urban development practices into humanitarian response.

50. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recently launched a sustainable urbanization strategy and is promoting the right to adequate housing. It co-funds activities in Bahrain, Guyana and Lesotho to develop effective, efficient and sustainable housing sectors and contribute to the achievement of target 11.1 of Goal 11. Likewise, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has created materials on the right to adequate housing, and is referring complainants to the office of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context.

51. Other inter-agency activities and programmes include the Framework for the Urban Food Agenda of FAO to enhance the sustainability of food systems for urban areas. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research, IOM and the World Bank are supporting the annual global Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development. The 2017 Global Conference on Cities and Migration was an important platform for sharing expertise on and raising awareness of migration aspects of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, expected to be adopted later in 2018.

52. The United Nations regional economic and social commissions play a key role in building awareness and mobilizing political support towards the sustainable development agendas. ESCAP convened the United Nations inter-agency Task Team on Urbanization, a regional partners forum, in 2017 to review the implementation of the Agenda and the localization of the Goals. ECLAC and other United Nations entities, with the conference of ministers of housing and urban development, are leading the formulation of a regional action plan to implement the Agenda. In the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Smart Cities programme is being implemented to address the major urban issues in medium-sized cities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia has started its implementation activities in housing and sustainable development. ECA is supporting African Member States to integrate urbanization into national development planning, with a focus on strengthening economic and spatial policies and strategies. This has resulted in

selected countries committing to a multisectoral approach to urbanization, linked to national targets for inclusive growth and transformation.

53. At the national level, various countries are participating in the UN-Women global flagship initiative, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, focused on comprehensive approaches to addressing everyday forms of crime and violence, including sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women, youth and children, in public and private spaces. UN-Women, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, its Advisory Group on Gender Issues and the Huairou Commission, is elaborating a guidance note to support Member States in integrating gender dimensions into urban planning, implementation and monitoring efforts.

54. At the local level, UNEP is coordinating the District Energy in Cities Initiative with 43 partners from the financial and private sectors. It also supports the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in over 30 cities, aimed at leveraging financing for sustainable and resilient district-scale heating, cooling and power plans and projects in medium-sized cities.

55. Partnerships between United Nations entities and universities worldwide, such as the Higher Education for Sustainability Initiative and the UN-Habitat University Network Initiative, gather large numbers of knowledge-based institutions and provide training and capacity development to strengthen policy design, monitoring and reporting.

56. In the context of fragile States, disaster, conflict and other acute vulnerabilities, training and capacity development activities are being organized to connect humanitarian and development efforts, including better monitoring of the scale and impact of forced displacement in cities.

57. The institutionalization of the monitoring and reporting process is key for ensuring continuity and robustness in national processes oriented towards achieving the New Urban Agenda. Financial resources to undertake capacity development will be needed to strengthen platforms, dialogues, networks, online applications and training of multiple stakeholders.

IV. Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda

58. As an accelerator of the achievement of global development agendas, the New Urban Agenda and its follow-up and review provide opportunities to better understand and implement the urban and territorial dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. In its resolution 71/256, the General Assembly encouraged UN-Habitat to continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and related dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, and to further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in close consultation with Member States, local authorities and stakeholders.

59. The implementation framework proposed by the New Urban Agenda addresses governance structures, the planning and management of urban spatial development and means of implementation, including financing, innovation and capacity development.

A. Building a governance structure and establishing a supportive framework

60. The successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires coordination at all levels. An urban and territorial governance structure based on a regulatory and

policy framework and the principle of subsidiarity can strengthen the legitimacy and accountability of policymakers and local authorities, empowering these key implementers of the Agenda.

61. The first reporting period for the implementation of the Agenda shows that regional action plans can provide guidance for national and local frameworks and help mainstream the Agenda into decision-making. This is the case with the Urban Agenda for the European Union, the regional action plan for implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean,[26] the Arab strategy for housing and sustainable urban development, the ESCAP Regional Partners Forum and the harmonized regional framework for the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda in Africa.

62. Subregional efforts have also been made to prepare unified agendas, such as the urban agenda of the Union for the Mediterranean, the subregional action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean and the plan for coastal cities in Pacific small island developing States.

63. Equally, countries are preparing action plans for the implementation of the Agenda and the Goals. As reported in the *Global State of National Urban Policy* report prepared by UN-Habitat and OECD, 76 of the 150 countries analysed have adopted explicit national urban policies with strong connections to the Agenda.[27] Yet, most of these countries lack a specialized national institution to oversee the effectiveness of the implementation of national urban policies. In about 20 countries, international agencies are providing direct support to the follow-up to and review of national urban policies.

64. National Governments are making efforts to strengthen urban governance institutions and stakeholder collaboration through the organization of conferences and national urban forums, as in the cases of Argentina, Belize, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Sweden. National habitat committees created as part of Habitat II are still operating in a number of countries, engaging government, civil society and the private sector in urban debates.[28] In Afghanistan, despite multiple challenges, the Agenda has been implemented in an integrated framework to build the future of Afghan cities, championed by the Head of State with support from the United Nations system.[29]

65. Local governments have organized broad-based policy dialogues on local Agenda implementation plans. Quito has oriented its strategies and its Vision 2040 towards implementing the Agenda and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, with significant progress to date, including the adoption of a resilience strategy and disaster risk management plan, reformulation of the plan of development and territorial organization, and creation of more sustainable, gender-responsive public transport. Madrid, through an open source application, allows citizens to decide how to spend part of the city's budget and shape its future development policies. UNDP is creating conditions to share this initiative with other capital cities.

66. At the thematic level, the Agenda encourages countries to consider intersectoral interventions. The increasing synergies between city and regional plans, urban resilience and climate change actions show progress in this area. Examples include

[26] Available from https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/42146/S1800032_en.pdf?sequence=7&isAllowed=y.

[27] Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UN-Habitat, *Global State of National Urban Policy* (Paris, OECD Publishing, and Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2018).

[28] UN-Habitat, "Guide on national habitat committees: purpose and composition" (Nairobi, 1996).

[29] UN-Habitat, "Balanced social and economic development of Afghanistan's cities". Available from http://nua.unhabitat.org/details1.asp?ProjectId=1&In=1.

the city resilience initiatives taking place under the City Resilience Programme of the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, which are helping over 30 cities to raise funds for climate resilience and disaster risk response.

67. In least developed countries, it has been observed that building an urban governance structure is not an easy task owing to the lack of appropriate institutional frameworks. This has resulted in weak participation by various stakeholders. Especially in low-income, conflict and fragile countries, community participation in planning initiatives is essential to the effective implementation of the Agenda, yet supportive frameworks need to be strengthened.

68. UN-Habitat has supported countries such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and Sri Lanka in their efforts to fully engage local authorities in community collaboration, including through the active participation of women and youth.

B. Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development

69. Effective spatial planning and management, including the use of territorial approaches, plays a key role in enabling the effective implementation of the Agenda at the local level.[30] Territorial analysis aids the understanding of the potential advantages of urban economies of agglomeration and scale that are critical for economic growth and prosperity.

70. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning [31] are overarching guidelines which have accelerated effective spatial planning. They provide a set of key principles and recommendations for achieving compact, socially inclusive, integrated, connected and climate-resilient cities and territories. With the use of the Guidelines, a number of countries are integrating spatial or territorial dimensions into their existing planning systems while others are creating new ones. Both demonstrate the value of better spatial planning for transformative action.

71. Cities such as Jakarta, Quito, Madrid and Durban, South Africa, are incorporating urban planning approaches into their local development plans and connecting these to the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. Using such approaches, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration has supported a new generation of urban operations related to housing affordability in Costa Rica, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. Several planning instruments address cross-cutting themes by using, for instance, gender-centric tools. In Spain, the mandatory gender impact statements of all urban and territorial plans at the subnational and local levels became an effective legal requirement in 2017. Another tool is the promotion of urban integrated strategies and operations, place-based interventions that generate positive impacts on the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. In response to New Urban Agenda principles, the World Bank and the regional development banks are financing territorial development initiatives to address the challenge of increasing inequalities and exclusion in growing urban agglomerations, such as in East Asia and the Pacific.

72. Cities are also applying planned city extensions and infills to accelerate progress towards the New Urban Agenda commitment of efficient land use. In Ghana, a planned city extension to the Accra metropolitan area is under way, while cities in

[30] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 15.
[31] Approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in April 2015.

Belize, the Comoros, Kenya, the Philippines and Somalia are developing similar strategies.

73. Urban planning is also instrumental in peacebuilding. In Latin America, the Government of Colombia has put forward a series of institutional and policy changes to promote the national peacebuilding process.[32] In Iraq, the UN-Habitat Mosul mapping and data portal (available from http://unhabitatiraq.net/mosulportal), a participatory city information system, has proven to be an effective spatial planning tool for conflict recovery. Public space design has also been applied to peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict and violence to foster the integration of refugees and migrants in Colombia, Kenya, Lebanon and Somalia, among other places.

C. Means of implementation

74. Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires a wide range of approaches, including mobilization of financial resources, innovations, enhanced advocacy, awareness and focused capacity development. The following are illustrative examples that have been implemented thus far.

75. There is an increasing recognition of the productive role of cities and urban territories in financing infrastructure to ensure inclusion, prosperity and sustainability. Progress in redefining and refocusing finance towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda has been moving forward in specific programmes linked to the productive capacity of cities. Nevertheless, it is evident that the Agenda and other development agendas are being implemented within the context of a stagnation, or even decline, in the share of development assistance available for urban projects and programmes.

76. In December 2017, the General Assembly encouraged UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to align large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda. The Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund have all facilitated increased investment in sustainable urbanization, as has the strengthening of local infrastructure funds and municipal development corporations.

77. Development finance institutions such as the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank are assisting cities and national Governments to create financial frameworks that attract new investments for sustainable growth. In East Africa, the World Bank is investing up to $1 billion in urban projects aimed at improving the financial and institutional performance of cities. It has also helped 240 city governments to tap into domestic and regional capital markets without a sovereign guarantee, and to support disaster risk and climate-related initiatives.

78. Progress in urban financing has also included fiscal decentralization, management of local assets, mobilization of local resources through property tax reforms, gender budgeting, diversification of subnational government revenue sources and improvements in revenue administration. For example, tools related to land value capture are increasingly being applied to increase revenue from infrastructure in cities in Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt and India, as well as in several Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. OECD has supported fiscal decentralization in a number of low- and middle-income countries. Nevertheless, effective fiscal decentralization has yet to be implemented in

[32] See http://projects.worldbank.org/P158520?lang=en.

many least developed countries, where urban development will be particularly critical in the coming decades.[33]

79. Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires the upscaling of urban innovations, which in turn requires an environment conducive to sharing and learning. Successful examples include urban poor families funding their own health insurance by trading recyclable waste in Malang, Indonesia, and mapping informal communities to empower citizens with data in Nairobi, both of which have begun to catalyse positive change across sectoral boundaries.[34]

80. Smart city programmes, creative industries, new infrastructure developments and disruptive technologies bring important advances in energy, transport and service provision that have the power to catalyse rapid urban change. Technologically advanced cities are using open data to monitor and better manage urban development, such as in the Smart Dubai initiative.

81. Using augmented reality in conjunction with public space planning through a collaboration with Ericsson and Mojang, the maker of Minecraft, UN-Habitat is engaging young people in the design of public spaces within their communities. A test has been conducted in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the development of a public space strategy for the city.

82. The institutional and human resource capacity of national, subnational and local governments, as well as other stakeholders, is essential for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Cities Development Initiative for Asia, being implemented by ADB and the German Agency for International Cooperation with funding from the Governments of Austria, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, along with the Shanghai municipal government, has the potential to synchronize the capacity development of its city infrastructure investment programming and prioritization with the implementation of the Agenda in more than 90 cities. A programme executed by ECLAC and UN-Habitat is aligning the Agenda with Goal 11 in cities in Latin America. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is training local officials on the use of data and monitoring systems to support the implementation of the Agenda, in cooperation with UNDP and UN-Habitat.

83. The ongoing scale-up of capacity development is taking various forms and engages knowledge-based institutions. Ongoing national capacity development programmes in Brazil, Ethiopia and Indonesia are scaling up through distance learning, in situ courses for civil servants and on-the-job training. Universities such as the Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Monterrey, Mexico, and the University of Nairobi in Kenya are incorporating the Agenda and the Goals in their regular education. The Latin America and Caribbean programme of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is providing online and in situ training for improving land supply for sustainable urban development. The Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative, sponsored by the Government of Germany in cooperation with UN-Habitat, Local Governments for Sustainability, ADB and others, is training urban leaders on all continents on sustainable mobility. The European Union URBACT programme is supporting capacity development in over 500 European cities related to efficient and sustainable urban policies and practices.

---

[33] OECD and United Cities and Local Governments, "Subnational governments around the world: structure and finance — a first contribution to the global observatory on local finances" (2016).

[34] Global Agenda Council on the Future of Cities, "Top ten urban innovations" (World Economic Forum, 2015). Available from http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Top_10_Emerging_Urban_Innovations_report_2010_20.10.pdf.

V. Recommendations

84. While reviewing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda during the past 18 months, opportunities for exchanging best practices, managing platforms and integrating the Agenda with other global agendas have emerged. On the basis of the present report, the Secretary-General makes the following recommendations:

(a) The Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division are invited to consider the adoption of a national sample of cities for the harmonization, comparison and aggregation of data on regional and global scales, which will support Member States in reporting on the implementation of the Agenda;

(b) The United Nations system may wish to strengthen the capacities of national and subnational governments to implement, monitor and report on the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with knowledge-based institutions;

(c) The United Nations system should strengthen existing multi-stakeholder platforms that facilitate participation and engagement at all levels and support Member States in reporting on the Agenda and the Goals;

(d) Member States may wish to further develop, as appropriate, inclusive, evidence-based and integrated national urban policies, as catalysts for implementing the Agenda and urban dimensions of the Goals at the national and local levels;

(e) In the spirit of localizing the Agenda and the Goals, Member States may also support the collection and analysis by subnational and local authorities of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data, including gender indicators, to inform policymaking and ensure that no one and no place is left behind in implementation of the Goals;

(f) Long-term and predictable financing mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Agenda, including the capacity of subnational governments to raise revenue from their own sources, should be created.

Annex

Global milestones and systems, 2018–2036

Year	*Global milestones*[a]	*Systems/outputs*
2018	**First quadrennial report** High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) World Urban Forum (ninth session) Global Climate Action Summit	Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 First quadrennial report: proposal of system for reporting Guidelines for country reporting High-level political forum on sustainable development report on Goal 11
2019	*Global Sustainable Development Report*, high-level political forum on sustainable development Sixth World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-seventh session)	UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-seventh session): dialogue on implementation of the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2019*
2020	World Urban Forum (tenth session)	Sustainable Development Goal 11 indicators concluded Enhanced online Quito implementation plan platform operational World Urban Forum (tenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda Consultation process on the second quadrennial report Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda
2021	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-eighth session)	Country reports for the second quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2021* UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-eighth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of regional economic and social commissions
2022	**Second quadrennial report** **Midterm review of the Sustainable Development Goals** World Urban Forum (eleventh session) Seventh World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders	World Urban Forum (eleventh session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda
2023	UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-ninth session) Global stocktaking (nationally determined contributions, Paris Agreement)	UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-ninth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2023* High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process
2024	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) World Urban Forum (twelfth session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (twelfth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda

Year	*Global milestones*[a]	*Systems/outputs*
2025	Eighth World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirtieth session)	Country reports for the third quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2025* UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirtieth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of the regional economic and social commissions
2026	**Third quadrennial report** **Midterm review of the New Urban Agenda (Quito+10)** World Urban Forum (thirteenth session)	Midterm review report World Urban Forum (thirteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2027	*Global Sustainable Development Report*, high-level political forum on sustainable development High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-first session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-first session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2027*
2028	Global stocktaking World Urban Forum (fourteenth session) Ninth World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (fourteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2029	UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-second session)	Country reports for the fourth quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2029* UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-second session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of the regional economic and social commissions
2030	**Fourth quadrennial report** **Sustainable Development Goal summit** World Urban Forum (fifteenth session)	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (fifteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2031	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-third session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-third session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2031*
2032	**United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+40)** World Urban Forum (sixteenth session)	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (sixteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda

Year	*Global milestones*[a]	*Systems/outputs*
2033	UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fourth session) Global stocktaking	Country reports for the fifth quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2033* UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fourth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of the regional economic and social commissions
2034	**Fifth quadrennial report** World Urban Forum (seventeenth session)	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (seventeenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2035	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fifth session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fifth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2035*
2036	**Habitat IV**	Renewed political commitment to assess and consolidate progress on the New Urban Agenda

[a] Specific sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that address Sustainable Development Goal 11 and human settlements are to be determined.